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McDonald's new branch in Guam will be going high-tech. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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GRADUATING CLASS
Northern Marianas College graduates pose for a photo at their baccalaureate Mass. The college will be conferring 208 associate and bachelor degrees—the highest in NMC's history—at the institution's commencement exercise on Saturday, May 20, 2017. NMC

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Finance releases $11.7M in rebates

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Finance released yesterday a total of $11,795,238.26 in rebates, refunds, and tax credit checks that were mailed to Saipan residents. Those on Tinian and Rota can pick up their checks at their respective Finance offices.

Taxpayers who filed their taxes on or before the April 17 filing deadline will be the first one to get their rebate checks a few days after the checks were mailed out on Tuesday.

This is the first batch of checks released. Those included in the initial release are $5,659,364.10 in re-

See FINANCE on Page 4

Labor probes new case of 'tourist workers'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Labor Secretary Edith Deleon Guerrero said that her department has been collating more information about a new batch of "tourist workers" that also allege that they have yet to be paid.

Responding to an email inquiry by *Saipan Tribune*, Deleon Guerrero said that 27 of these workers have come forward to seek their help. Government and private groups, like the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Karidat, are helping take care of these workers.

"CNMI Labor is still working hard on the collection of accurate information and claims by the workers. There are numerous employer names mentioned by the

See LABOR on Page 4

IPI poured over $200M to NMI economy

The NMI's economy has undeniably soared to new heights since Imperial Pacific International began pumping into the local economy fresh revenues in form of taxes and fees beginning 2014.

The magnitude of Imperial Pacific's contributions came at a time when the islands were experiencing its toughest challenge: mounting financial obligations including the collapsing pension funds for retirees and their survivors.

The NMI government has

See IPI on Page 4

'Man found dead on Tinian acted strangely a day before'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The man who was found dead in the jungle on Tinian last Friday morning was last seen a day before acting strangely and violent, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

In a news release, acting DPS spokesman Sgt. Jason Tarkong said the case of 44-year-old Ian Napu Ikehara has been classified as a dead person.

Tarkong said that Guam chief medical examiner Dr. Aurelio Espinola did an autopsy and that the preliminary findings are inconclusive. Police are awaiting a toxicology report.

Tarkong said that Tinian DPS received a report last Friday, May 12, at 6:50am, that Ikehara was missing.

Police said that Ikehara had been hired by a surveying company to help cut trails in the woods northeast of the Tinian airport for a land survey project on the island.

Police learned from an eyewitness that a day be-

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Many Chinese have poured at least $24 billion into "golden visa" programs.

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Google's computer programs are gaining a better understanding of the world.

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LIFE & STYLE
Producers are already thinking up ambitious plans for the 90th Oscars ceremony.

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Local

Dela Cruz: Tinian can help with Saipan's power needs

Tinian could help support Saipan's power needs if an emergency arises, as stated by the former board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., according to Rep. Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan).

Dela Cruz said that Tinian-CUC has a 20-megawatt system composed of four 2.5-megawatt engines and two 5-MW engines.

Yet Tinian's power demand is only between two to three MW.

"I informed Gov. [Ralph DLG] Torres, based on the research that CUC has 10MW that can be brought in and it is just five to six miles away from us," said Dela Cruz.

"These engines are owned by CUC. If there were really a critical emergency here on Saipan, then the fastest option would be to look into the two 5MW engines on Tinian. These two 5MW are something that we could look into."

What CUC could do is to plan how to bring these engines to Saipan. "Logistics and planning in transporting and installing such engines would have to be made by CUC."

"They must begin the planning now and not later. Plans like these should already be in the books. In case we are really in an emergency, those two 5MW [engines] can be brought over here within a matter of weeks to supplement what is needed here."

He also pointed out that the former PMIC plant or Power Plant 4 in Puerto Rico has a capacity of between 10 and 12MW. "The question is whether Power Plant 4 is being utilized and producing power now or is it just for standby."

Dela Cruz added that this could be clarified by CUC, if the electricity produced by Power Plant 4 is being used or for reserve.

He said that CUC could still procure additional engines in the future but advised it to be transparent, that the process is "done in a prudent, legal, and ethical manner."

Dela Cruz said the issue of having enough generating capacity just across Saipan should be looked into and needs more discussion. "I know that there would be a lot of discussions on this, but the fact remains that these are a property of CUC." ***(Jon Perez)***

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McDonald's newest branch in Guam will be going high-tech

Jose "Joe" Ayuyu is joined by his wife Marcia Ayuyu, friends, and guests at the Mcdonald's Yigo groundbreaking site in Guam.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's Guam is opening another branch in Yigo.

This, however, is no ordinary branch; it's the franchise's leap into the 21st century in the Marianas, according to McDonald's Guam and Saipan president and owner Jose "Joe" Ayuyu Guam.

The new McDonald's will feature digital menu boards, a self-order kiosk, an automated drink system, and table service.

People on-the-go will get their orders smoothly in the comfort of their cars in the double-lane drive-through.

"This will be the first McDonald's in Guam that is modern in the sense of its looks, kitchen equipment, and service…When it comes to technology, my staff knows that if it's available, I want it," said Ayuyu.

The restaurant will have a seating capacity of 52 occupants in its 4,000-square-foot property located at the corner of Route 1 and Chalan Kujuna in Yigo. They are in the process of hiring 60 new employees.

"When you look at Dededo and Yigo, you can understand that these are the fastest growing community in Guam. Of course, we have our current location at Mobil, but it's completely maxed out as far as what it can do for the community," Ayuyu said. "I think this will be a win-win for both the business and the community. We can alleviate traffic at the Mobil location while also increasing sales. We're excited."

Opening four new branches in Guam is already on the table and Ayuyu is looking into more locations with much optimism.

"What I like about Guam is that it is growing steadily. In the Northern Marianas, we've seen what rapid and unpredictable growth can do and we know that at the end of double-digit growth, there's a double-digit slump. I don't see that with Guam."

Guam Business Magazine has named Ayuyu its 2016 Executive of the Year. He was born and raised on Saipan. In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* last year, Ayuyu said he enjoys being part of the McDonald's company and having a family-run business on Saipan and now in Guam.

"It is all about family. For the past 23 years, my wife was my business partner."

Ayuyu and his wife, Marcia, are joined by their daughter Ashley Ayuyu in running the business in Guam as human resources director of McDonald's. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Man gets 15 mos. prison sentence for selling drugs

A man who pleaded guilty of selling methamphetamine or "ice" was slapped with a 15-month prison sentence in federal court on Wednesday.

Yang Kang Chen was given credit for time served.

Chen has been in detention for five months and four days.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona approved Chen's request to serve the rest of his prison term at the CNMI Department of Corrections.

After his release from prison, Chen, a Chinese national, will be deported.

Benjamin Petersburg appeared on behalf of Chen. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Sendai High School pushes for creation of exchange program

The Sendai Ikuei Gakuen High School in Norita, Japan, has asked for the creation of an exchange program with public schools in Saipan.

Sendai High School principal Takehiko Katoh met with Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang yesterday to discuss plans to start an exchange program with the Saipan Mayor's Office.

According to Katoh, Sendai has exchange programs with 100 schools in 13 countries across the world.

According to Apatang, the student exchange partnership will most likely be established for the next school year.

Apatang said that student exchange programs like these are always welcome in order for Japanese students to learn about Japan's ties with the island's history.

According to Apatang, the Japanese students would gain knowledge about the cultural heritage of the Commonwealth and the how Japan and Saipan share a common background.

Apatang and his staff will continue to communicate with Katoh and his board members to organize the exchange program and both sides will strive to finalize the program by the start of school year 2017-2018. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

Blood pressure screening at grocery stores

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., with support from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers and the Northern Marianas College, is reaching into villages to help CNMI residents prevent and control high blood pressure on Saipan.

The project aims to identify residents who may not know they have high blood pressure and connect them with the care they need.

In March, NMC nursing students began holding free weekly blood pressure screenings at five grocery stores across Saipan through June, but changes have been made to schedule for the summer. The updated schedule is below.

May 24	Twins Market, Dandan	4pm to 6pm
May 27	Joeten Superstore, Oleai	10:30am to 12:30pm
May 31	Han Nam Market, Koblerville	4pm to 6pm
June 7	Welcome Market, San Roque	4pm to 6pm
June 10	Joeten Superstore, Olea	10:30am to 12:30pm
June 14	Kagman Market, Kagman	4pm to 6pm
June 17	Joeten Superstore, Oleai	10:30am to 12:30am
June 21	Twins Market, Dandan	4pm to 6pm
June 24	Joeten Superstore, Oleai	10:30am to 12:30pm

IPI

From Page 1

been optimistic that the local economy will only begin recovering once Imperial Pacific's initial investment materializes, and in particular, the Phase 1 of its investment: the multimillion-dollar casino-resort/hotel project in Garapan.

However, new revenues came in earlier than projected.

For the past three years and four months, Imperial Pacific has contributed a total of $201,569,870.95. This is from combined payments of Business Gross Revenue Tax, corporate income tax, excise tax, casino license fees, Commonwealth Casino Commission operation fund, donations and payroll withholding tax.

From Day 1, when Imperial Pacific was awarded the exclusive casino license, it vowed to support the Commonwealth's needs. Imperial Pacific committed $2 billion through long-term investments as part of its 40-year exclusive license agreement with the central government.

Unprecedented contributions

Considered by economic watchers as the most expensive investment in the Pacific region, the opening of the Garapan casino resort project has been projected to be profitable for both Imperial Pacific and the NMI government.

But revenues and taxes generated from the initial training facility, Best Sunshine Live, a subsidiary of the Hong Kong-based investment giant, provided early and unexpected new cash flow to the local government.

The bulk of Imperial Pacific's local contribution came in the form of BGRT payments.

From 2015, 2016 and the first four months of 2017 (January to April) the NMI government collected a total of $77,641,710.12. This is the largest Business Gross Revenue Tax payment in 10 years made by a single investor in the CNMI.

Of this amount, a total of $4,586,550.54 in BGRT was paid by Imperial Pacific in 2015.

In 2016, Imperial Pacific paid $48,020,146.86 BGRT. This is a whopping 947-percent increase compared to the prior year. This is also the largest single source of revenue that the NMI government has generated in any given calendar year for the last 10 years.

During the first four months of 2017 (January to April) Imperial Pacific remitted $25,035,012.72 in BGRT. If this number holds for the next eight months of this year, the NMI government stands to realize a 56-percent increase in BGRT tax collection from Imperial Pacific alone, a total of $75,105,038.16 by end of 2017.

On top of the business gross revenue tax, the largest private sector employer paid $29,965,886.77 in corporate income tax. Of this amount, $24,515,886.77 was paid in 2016 while in the first four months of 2017 it paid $5.450 million.

Excise tax, or import taxes from goods brought in by the investor, was pegged at $6,958,127.54, for 2015, 2016 and the first four months of this year.

Rescuing pension fund

Another bulk of Imperial Pacific's commitment to the local economy was the casino license fee. For the period covering 2014 to the first four months of 2017, it already transferred $64.750 million in casino license fees.

The casino license fee was primarily tapped to rescue the collapsing government pension plan for all of the Commonwealth's retirees and their survivors.

As of Jan. 31, 2017, there are 2,416 retirees on Saipan, 300 on Rota and 203 on Tinian.

From September 2014, the NMI government never missed out in meeting its pension obligation to all retirees as a result of Imperial Pacific's tax payments.

Of the total casino license fee paid, $31 million was paid in 2014 (advance payment for year one and year five), $15 million for 2015 and 2016. They have also paid $3.750 million for the January-April period of 2017.

As part of its casino license agreement, Imperial Pacific must also provide for the Commonwealth Casino Commission's operation fund. Since 2015 to April 2017 a total of $4.5 million was funneled into CCC's funding operation.

Additionally, a total of $11,124,553.35 was donated separately by Imperial Pacific. Of the amount, $10 million was for the free CUC vouchers to all residents in 2014. This is part of the community chest fund that Imperial Pacific had committed to the people of the Commonwealth.

The company is now the largest private sector employer in the Marianas. With over 1,500 employees it remitted $6,629,593.17 in payroll withholding taxes to the local treasury. This covers the period from 2015 to end of April 2017.

Revived confidence

Imperial Pacific's investment has revived confidence in the overall economic landscape of the islands, particularly the travel industry, the main economic mainstay.

The islands' popularity among Asian travelers is going up again. Imperial Pacific's aggressive marketing campaigns facilitated the growth in tourism arrivals.

Imperial Pacific said that its partnership with the CNMI government has been beneficial.

There are also new construction and repairs of roads, hotels, and opening of new businesses, and Imperial Pacific is confident that it will continue to stimulate the local economy and attract more investors.

"Together, as partners, we can continue to actively look for new ways to improve the local economy and ultimately transform the islands into a global destination that offers world-class services and friendly investment climate," Imperial Pacific said. "The benefit to the people of the CNMI has been …not only new job opportunities but also improved way of life that has never been felt until recently." (***Imperial Pacific***)

LABOR

From Page 1

workers and they are MCC [International], Beilida, Gold Mantis, and CMC Macau," said Deleon Guerrero.

"There are monetary claims involved, hence our diligent work to capture all information accurately so that CNMI Labor will be able to narrow down what is owed and what is not," she added.

Some of the workers claim that they worked for CMC Macau by installing the gaming tables and other furniture and fixtures on Saipan. CMC Macau is the newest employer name to come up. They are involved in supplying and installing gaming materials in casinos.

Deleon Guerrero said they also validating the whereabouts of all those involved in the current case that they are working on. "The workers that we had physical contact with have all their passports."

"Likewise, we are also validating the physical presence of all 27 workers. Just this afternoon [Thursday], one worker is known to be back in China. However, the worker's monetary claims is what's before us, hence the need to conduct a thorough investigation."

Conditional permit

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres welcomed the conditional certificate of occupancy issued by the Department of Public Works on Tuesday to Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. The certificate gives the Saipan investor permission to start the operations of the casino component of Imperial Pacific Resort.

Torres said DPW, since construction began, made sure that the structure is done right by the contractor hired by IPI. "[DPW] made sure that there are no shortcuts or cutting corners on what needs to be done."

"And if they [DPW] are to issue anything, they make sure that everything is covered. So, if they issued a temporary permit, then the work was done thoroughly. Those temporary permits still needs to be addressed according to the timeline."

On Tuesday, DPW's Building Safety Code Division finally released the conditional certificate after conducting almost daily inspections in order to guarantee the safety of the facility and that it does not pose any danger when people start occupy it.

The offices of the Commonwealth Casino Commission and casino (basement and levels 1 and 2), Tapochau Bar, grand lobby, and the casino floor are the occupied areas that are allowed.

FINANCE

From Page 1

funds/rebates on Saipan, and $386,326.71 and 395,199.54 for Tinian and Rota respectively, $4,841,304.58 in CNMI child taxes, $58,382.65 in American Opportunity Tax Credits, and $454,660.68 for loan programs at various banks that allowed loans against tax refunds/rebates.

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson advised all taxpayers to give the United States Postal Service time to sort and distribute the checks. "If any issues from prior year tax filings are still pending, this may delay the release of tax checks."

"I respectfully remind filers to clear those prior year items at their earliest convenience in order to expedite the processing of the checks. As taxpayers clear the pending items on the remaining tax returns, [Finance] will continue the release of pending refunds, rebates, child tax, and American Opportunity Tax Credit checks."

The administration—Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog—commended the Finance Department for the speedy processing and disbursement of checks.

"We want to recognize the employees of the Division of Revenue and Taxation, Division of Electronic Data Processing, and Treasury for their hard work and effort to get these checks processed and released as quickly as possible," Torres said in a statement.

"Their jobs are difficult and stressful, but we want to acknowledge them for their great service. We also want to thank the community for their continued patience and cooperation as they wait for the release of these checks."

For more information, questions or concerns, call 664-1000, -1040, -1043, or -1098.

MAN

From Page 1

fore, Thursday, May 11, Ikehara was cutting trails in the boonies.

The eyewitness allege that Ikehara began acting strangely and was violent. That scared the witness, who left Ikehara to seek help. The eyewitness notified other workers near the area. They tried to help Ikehara but were unable to locate him.

A search was then launched. The next day, Friday, at 9:50am, the eyewitness found Ikehara's body in the jungle.

Tarkong said police then treated the scene as a crime scene as police detectives and crime scene technicians from Saipan DPS arrived on Tinian late Friday morning to process the scene and collect evidence.

The victim's body was then brought to the Saipan Commonwealth Health Center's morgue.

A Tinian resident questioned why it took so long for DPS Tinian to release information about the incident.

Saipan Tribune ran the story yesterday about the dead body upon receiving tips from Tinian.

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Hyundai Grand Santa Fe is a hole-in-one prize at TOC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors is offering the 2017 Hyundai Grand Santa Fe as a hole-in-one prize for the upcoming Governor's Tournament of Champions that will be held on May 27 and 28, 2017. From left, Surina Reyes, Marida Pensader, and Marie Sablan from the TOC Committee; Ben Babauta, TOC tournament director, and Randy Steele, Triple J Motors general manager.

Triple J Motors Saipan announced yesterday that it is offering a brand new 2017 Hyundai Grand Santa Fe as a hole-in-one prize at the upcoming 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions.

"As we have done for many years, we are excited to again be a part of the Governor's Tournament of Champions as a gold sponsor," said Triple J Motors general manager Randy Steele. "The tournament has raised thousands of dollars for important beautification projects and we look forward to another successful weekend of golf."

"Triple J Motors' donation of a vehicle known for its visual appeal with its 6-speed automatic transmission and hi-tech capabilities will be a great draw for golfers," said Ben Babauta, tournament director. "We are extremely thankful for the company's continued support of the event."

The 22nd Governor's Tournament of Champions will be played at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort's east and west courses on May 27 and 28.

The two-day event is bigger and better than ever with exciting hole-in-one prizes and the chance to win thousands of dollars in possible prizes. The TOC tournament fee is $200.

Winners in the Men's Championship, A, B, C, Senior and Super Senior flights will each receive $500, $400, $300, a digital camera, and $100 DFS gift certificate for the first to fifth place, respectively. The Ladies Low Gross winners will receive $500, $400, and $300 for first to third place, respectively. The first, second, and third place winners of the Ladies Low Net will each receive a trophy.

There will be hundreds of thousands worth of prizes that will be at stake in the two-day tournament, including hole-in-one prizes that include a brand new 2017 Honda Civic hatchback donated by Joeten Motors, a brand new 2017 Limited Edition 50th Anniversary Toyota Corolla donated by Atkins Kroll Toyota, a $10,000 hole-in-one cash prize donated by Pacifica Insurance, a $5,000 hole-in-one cash prize donated by McDonald's Saipan, and one year of free golf donated by Saipan Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Since its inception, TOC has turned over more than $800,000 to the Saipan Beautification Fund, which has gone directly to improvements like the tree-lined traffic medians that stretch from Garapan to the Kensington, as well as the revitalization of the Garapan special district. In addition, the Governor's TOC also contributed funds for the Paseo de Marianas, the lighting of the Saipan Beach Road pathway, and the beautification of the Port-to-Park pathway.

For more information about sponsorship opportunities for the 2017 TOC, contact Babauta at 483-2563. For player information and to download the registration form, visit www.tocSaipan.com.

For more information about Triple J Motors Saipan, "Like" the Triple J Motors Saipan Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TJMSPN and theTriple J Motors website at www.carssaipan.com. ***(PR)***

GOLF TOURNEY PRIZE CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Triple J Motors sponsored a 2017 Mitsubishi Lancer ES as a hole-in-one prize during the 7th Annual Docomo Pacific Golf Classic held at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort last Saturday, May 13. Shown with the car are Triple J Motors and Docomo Pacific managers and staff, led by Randy Steele, GM of Triple J Motors, far left, and Ryan Calvo, account executive at Docomo Pacific, far right.

CRM director set to leave post

After 20 years of working as an environmental advocate and conservation proponent, Fran Castro, director of the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality's Division of Coastal Resources Management, is leaving the agency in June.

Castro is relocating to Guam to be with her husband, Dr. Peter Houk, a marine biology professor at the University of Guam.

In a statement, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres commended Castro for her years in public service and environmental advocacy.

"Fran's public service career has spanned more than a quarter century, and during that time, she has made tremendous contributions to the CNMI. In addition to helping secure millions in federal and nonfederal grants, Fran's leadership and knowledge have raised the Commonwealth's profile within regional and national environmental arenas. Her positions on high level boards and committees have also given us a greater say in the management and administration of our unique natural resources. On the local level, we have come to rely heavily on Fran's strategic thinking and depth of experience in conservation practices and coral reef protection. Her departure from BECQ is not just a great loss to that agency, but also for the CNMI."

Torres thanked Castro for her service to the Commonwealth and wished her well as she prepares to move to Guam to be with her husband.

"Although she is moving to Guam, Fran has mentioned that she will continue to call Saipan her home and promises to make frequent visits. No matter her future endeavors, I am very confident she will continue to be a passionate advocate for the environment and for the CNMI wherever she goes," he added.

Prior to becoming CRM director (a post she held for more than three years), Castro worked as a program manager for DEQ's Nonpoint Source Pollution and Marine Monitoring Program. She also worked for the Office of Planning and Budget, the Office of the Attorney General, and the CNMI Superior Court before joining DEQ.

She was appointed by the governor as the CNMI's point of contact to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force and the U.S. All Islands Committee comprised of American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Florida, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2011, she was elected to be the chairperson of the committee until her last day on the job.

She served as focal point for the Micronesia Challenge, a commitment to effectively conserve 30 percent marine resources and 20 percent terrestrial resources by 2020, and to secure sustainable finances for environmental conservation. The challenge was an initiative signed by the governments of the CNMI, Guam, the Republics of Palau, Marshall Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia. She chaired the committee in 2010, and is currently the vice-chair of the Steering Committee.

She is a member of the Pacific Islands Regional Planning Body, a component of the National Ocean Council established by President Obama in 2010. The PIRPB is comprised of eight federal members and eight non-federal members. Shortly thereafter, the Pacific Regional Ocean Partnership, comprised of members from American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii, was established and she was designated as the CNMI member and currently sits as the chairperson until she leaves.

She served as the CNMI delegate for the Coastal States Organization and was elected by the members to be on the CSO Executive Committee as the representative and chair for the islands coastal working group comprised of American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Castro was one of the founders of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance here in the CNMI. ***(PR)***

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2017 Nissan Rogue S 2WD retail price $27,995.00 less 20% downpayment. Financing at 5.4% APR for 72 monthly payments of $364.86 or $168.40 per paycheck based on 26 pay periods per year. Total deferred payment $26,269.92.

Kilili announces Wounded Warrior Fellowship

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan announced yesterday the selection of the Marianas congressional office to host a Wounded Warrior Fellow. The two-year fellowship will begin in August and offers the opportunity for a wounded warrior—a medically retired veteran—to work either in one of the congressional offices in the Marianas or in Washington.

"This is an exceptional opportunity for one of our Marianas veterans to branch out into a new field of endeavor, while still serving his or her country," Sablan said. "The person selected to be our Wounded Warrior Fellow will learn about the workings of Congress and the civilian side of the federal government. This is a career advancement and educational experience that can lead to employment even beyond the two years of the fellowship.

"We will also look to our new Fellow to use their own military experience to assist their fellow veterans who come to the congressional office for assistance," said Sablan. "I expect the Fellow will advise and assist me in working on veterans' issues with the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where I am a member, and on military issues generally, such as the proposed buildup in the Marianas."

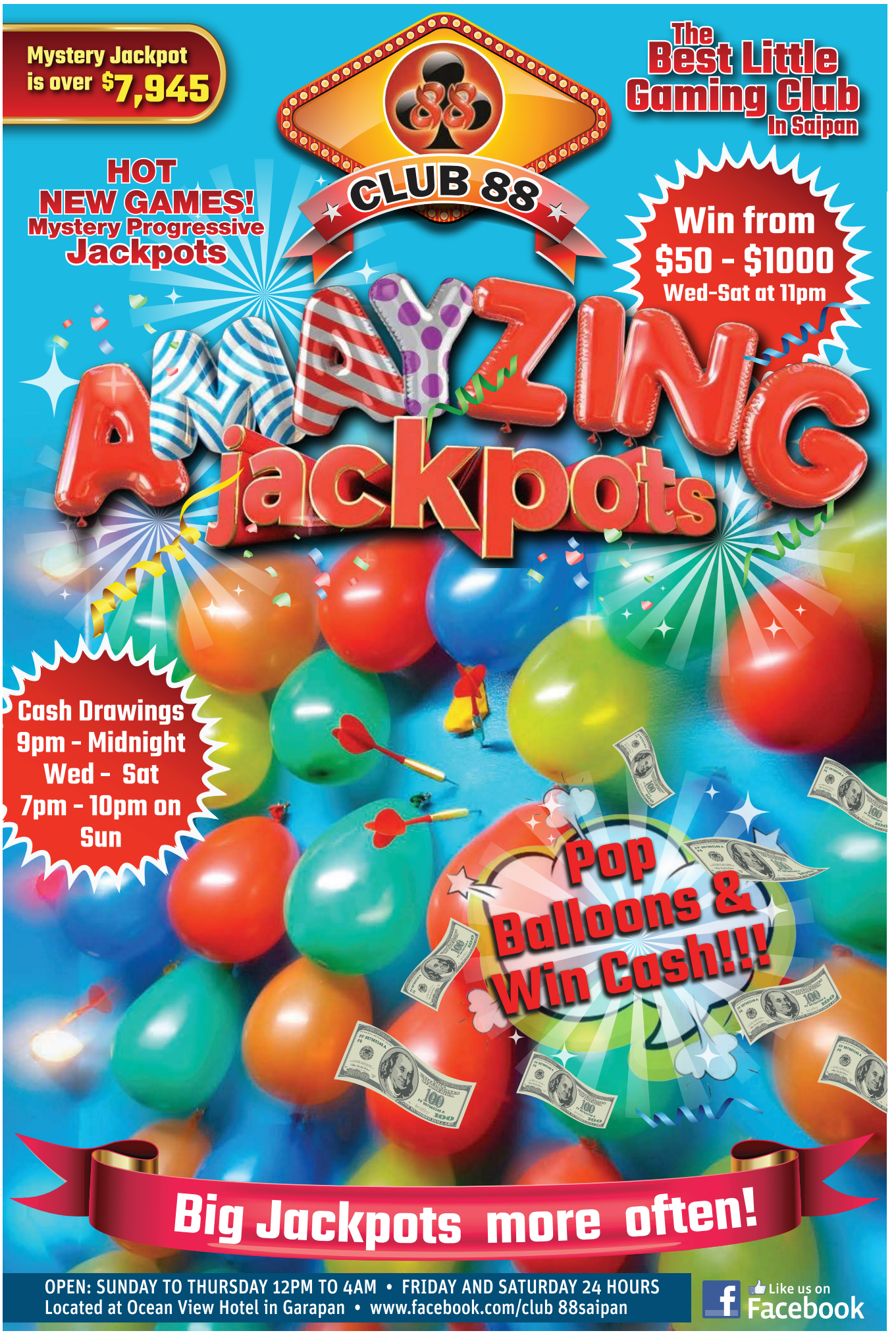
The Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program was established by the U.S. House of Representatives to provide employment opportunities for wounded or disabled veterans within the offices of members of Congress. A limited number of congressional offices are selected each year to participate.

The program is limited to veterans who served on active duty after Sept. 11, 2001, have less than 20 years of service, and have a minimum 30 percent disability rating from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

In addition to a salary paid by the chief administrative officer of the House of Representatives and the full range of federal employee benefits, Fellows are given intensive training in Washington at the beginning of their term in order to orient quickly to the responsibilities of congressional work and learn about the tools available to them.

Interested veterans should submit a resume, a copy of the last DD214 issued, and a letter from the VA indicating a 30 percent or greater disability rating to housewoundedwarriors@mail.house.gov. The letter is not necessary, if the veteran is medically retired.

More information can be found by visiting https://cao.house.gov/wounded-warrior. Or contact Bob Schwalbach at the congressional office at bob.schwalbach@mail.house.gov. ***(PR)***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Kilili congratulates governor on reaching food stamp agreement

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) congratulated Gov. Ralph Torres yesterday for his administration's successful agreement on use of $30.5 million in new food stamp funding provided by Congress in the Agricultural Act of 2014. The Commonwealth received a letter of approval for its spending plan from the U.S. Department of Agriculture on Saturday.

"The first $13.5 million became available last fiscal year," Sablan said, "another $8.5 million this year, and the final $8.5 million becomes available on Oct. 1.

"I worked very hard to get this money into the Act, when I was a member of the Agriculture Committee. So, it is good to see that the Commonwealth and the Agriculture Department have now reached an agreement on the detailed plan of expenditure that will give more help to more people."

"I look forward to joining the governor in a roll-out of the new program guidelines later this month," Sablan added.

People in the Marianas receive less food assistance than other Americans, and Sablan has made equal treatment an issue since first coming to Congress. In 2009, he successfully lobbied the Obama administration to give the Marianas the same 13.6 percent increase provided that year to the national Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program, or SNAP. The Marianas is not covered by SNAP.

He was able to add an additional $1 million to the fiscal 2012 Agriculture appropriation to increase benefits further in the Marianas.

And in 2014 Sablan convinced the Department of Agriculture to allow the Commonwealth to raise monthly food stamp benefits for Rota and the Northern Islands (a 68-percent increase) and for Tinian (28 percent). "Food costs are higher on Rota, the Northern Islands, and Tinian," Sablan said. "We needed to help people more on those islands."

Official agreement on the spending plan for the new $30.5 million came in a letter to Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter, from Jesus Mendoza, Regional Administrator of the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service in San Francisco. ***(PR)***

Drilling firm sues CUC

A private company is suing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. for refusing to pay for the 1,000-foot geothermal exploratory assessment well drilled in Gualo Rai last year.

CUC, relying upon funding assistance from the U. S. Department of the Interior, entered into a contract with 4i-CNMI, LLC in July 2014, to drill an exploratory geothermal gradient well to determine whether geothermal energy might be a feasible alternative for Saipan.

This was the deepest hole drilled on Saipan.

"Despite the fact that this exploratory assessment well provided, and continues to provide, valuable information to CUC, CUC's board refused to pay 4i for its performance under the contract," said 4i legal counsel Robert O'Connor. "We expect a new CUC board…will look at this anew and get off on the right foot by paying its vendors for the valuable work they do."

4i filed the breach of contract action against CUC in the Commonwealth Superior Court on Wednesday.

4i is owed more than $700,000 (70 percent of the contract price). 4i says this is money that CUC already has, provided by the Department of the Interior. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

May is Women's Health Month

In celebration of May as Women's Health Month, the Office of Women's Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services wants women to take charge their health.

Examination, laboratory tests, immunizations and counseling varies at every age. Creating awareness to meet these needs that will result in prevention and health management is vital to this year's campaign.

The campaign will conclude with the Balloon Fun Run, Walk and Roll on May 27, from 6am to 10am at the Filcom Pavilion at Civic Center. The event includes 5K run, walk and roll, batting, soccer and baseball demonstration stations. There will be raffles and prizes. Blood pressure and blood sugar screenings will also be available.

For more information visit womenshealth.gov or call 664-8703 or 664-8705. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Record-breaking 208 prepare to graduate at NMC

A total of 208 students will be graduating from the Northern Marianas College this Saturday at the Koblerville Gymnasium.

The ceremony, starting at 4pm, boasts a record number of associate and bachelor's degree graduates. Last year, the number of graduates totaled 204, which was also record breaking at the time.

"NMC continues to play an increasingly integral role in educating and training our residents," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "We are very proud of all our graduates who will be joining thousands of other NMC alumni who are business executives, government leaders, community advocates, and other professionals who are making a positive difference.

Saturday's ceremony would see 171 students graduate with associate degrees and 37 would graduate with bachelor's degrees.

AA in liberal arts, at 40 graduates, has the most number of graduates at NMC this year while the AA in liberal arts with education emphasis takes second place at 19 graduate. AA in natural resource management and AA in nursing tie with 18 graduates each.

CNMI Teacher of the Year Gerard Van Gils of Kagman High School was selected as keynote speaker based on the recommendations of the graduating class.

Van Gils, affectionately known as Mr. G at KHS, is the Marianas Young Professionals' Young Professional of the Year. Van Gils founded the Mentor for a Meal program, which has provided hundreds of high school students professional mentorship. He also founded the Million Dollar Scholars, or MDS, a program at KHS that seeks to jumpstart the college careers of students.

The graduation ceremony would also be handing out academic excellence awards to students who have earned a GPA of 4.0, along with the student leadership award and the community service award. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

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‘Ninong’ Alegre basks in his children’s successes

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

On Monday, Anthony “Ninong” Alegre will stand alongside other parents to watch as new lawyers in the Philippines take their oaths.

“I am going home to wear a *barong* and see my daughter grasp her dream,” said Alegre.

Alegre has been on Saipan since 1985, starting work as a projectionist technician and then becoming an amusement center technician. Right now, he is a company messenger with TanHoldings.

“You won’t get rich working on Saipan but if you work hard and persevere, you have a place here. I told myself that if there is any job opportunity that will come my way, I will grab it.

“Your attitude becomes gutsy. That’s how you become if you have people who are depending on you. That’s how you become when you have a family to take care of.”

Alegre left behind his wife, Nelda, and their four children in the Philippines to work on Saipan to give them a good life.

“That was the goal and it was also inevitable that there were drawbacks. My children were practically still babies when I left them. I would see them every two years when I got the chance to go home. They didn’t know me.”

Growing up, Alegre’s children only knew him because of a picture their mother would show them every time they talk about “Papa.”

“When I am home, I make them laugh. I tell jokes. I become the fun dad. I make everything light. I use laughter to hide the years that were lost while I was away. But no matter how loud the laughter gets, I know I cannot catch up.”

The time and miles apart did not prevent Alegre and his wife from being guides to their children.

“All of them had ambition. When they were still kids, I would ask them what they wanted to become when they grow up. My firstborn Tonette was a sickly kid and that made her want to become a doctor. My second, Joan, was the talkative one. She knows how to argue and justify her actions. She wanted to be a lawyer.

BEA CABRERA
On Monday, Anthony “Ninong” Alegre will watch his daughter take her oath as a new lawyer. Alegre takes pride in his children’s accomplishments.

My third, Jasper, wanted to be an architect and my youngest, who took after me when it comes to tinkering with equipment, wanted to [pursue information technology].”

The ambitions of Alegre’s children became his. There were times that he would work 10 to 12 hours a day and not feel tired.

“The path was not perfect. There were many deviations on their way to reach their ambitions. Last year, my son Jasper passed away due to asthma complications. It was a hard time for the family.”

When faced with trials and adversities, Alegre would find solace in asking himself why.

“I always go back to my whys. When my kids were growing up, I would find myself alone crying at night, dreaming of a life with them but I am miles away. I go back to my why and think I am here on Saipan because of them. I go back to my why and think I promised my family I will never let go. I go back to my why and think my children and I have ambitions. I go back to my why and think that when we reach our ambitions, I will go home.”

His firstborn, Tonette, is now a physician and his youngest son, Francis, is now an I.T. expert.

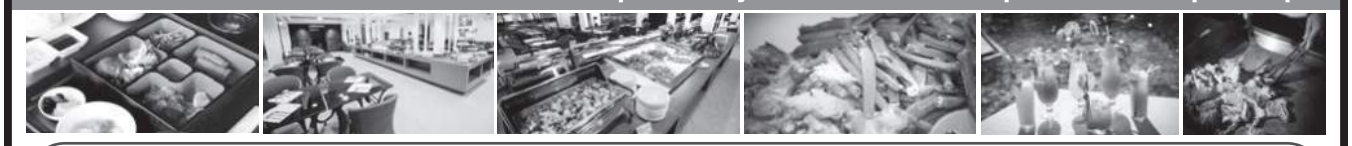
This time, Alegre’s trip to attend his daughter’s oath taking as a lawyer is another answer to one of his whys.

“I come from a small [village] in Iloilo. I have nothing. I work as a company messenger but my pride is my children. With the Lord’s mercy, my wife and I were able to send them to school and even if I was not there in their growing-up years, they turned out to be good people.”

Alegre’s nickname, *ninong,* means godfather in Tagalog. On Saipan, he is *ninong* to 30 godchildren, so much so that co-workers and friends picked up on that and began calling him that.

“I feel I’ve come full circle. I may stand as a godfather to many children here on Saipan but my being a father to my children in the Philippines never left my mind and heart.”

GRAND VRIO RESORT
SAIPAN
* Breakfast: 7:00am-10:00am * Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm *Sunday Brunch: 11:00am-2:00pm *Dinner: 5:30pm-9:00pm



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All you can eat and drink! Champagne, beers...

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RESTAURANT DOLPHIN
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Last Order: 1:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order：8:30pm

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Sunday, May 21, 2017
Time: 8am to 12noon
We invite members of the community to take advantage of our FREE DENTAL SERVICE to those with limited access to dental service. We ask that only those with NO DENTAL INSURANCE be present at this event.
We look forward to seeing you!
Quartermaster Rd., Chalan Laulau
234-6323

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Robbery in Garapan

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public’s help for a robbery incident that occurred on Coral Tree Ave. (Route 219) by Garapan Elementary School on Wednesday, May 17, 2017, at about 10pm. Police learned that two Asian women were walking west on the sidewalk by Garapan Elementary School when the one of the women, 28, had her pursed snatched.

The women were walking toward Beach Road when they passed a blue Toyota Corolla. Three men were inside the car and the windows were rolled up.

Suspect 1 described as male, wearing a white shirt and had short hair, exited the rear passenger door and grabbed the victim’s purse. The victim struggled with the suspect, who entered the getaway car, which then made a U-turn and drove east toward the Chalan Pale Arnold highway. The victim was holding on to the car when she fell and sustained minor injuries to her right knee. The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services treated the victim for her injuries. She refused transport to the hospital. Items stolen include a black purse, a cell phone, a Chinese passport, a necklace, and $100 cash.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to $1,000. cfor any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(Crime Stoppers)***

ABTC 'ready for new industries'

David R. Maratita, director of the Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division under the Department of Commerce, and John M. Hosono, ABTC enforcement officer, pose after the Public Service Recognition awards ceremony at the department. Both were recipients of awards or excellent performances and years of service.

BEA CABRERA

By BEA CABRERA
REPORTER

The Alcohol Beverage and Tobacco Control Division under the Department of Commerce is ready to tackle new challenges with the emergence of the casino and e-gaming industries, according to ABTC director David R. Maratita.

"Training of enforcers in handling businesses with 24-hour operation like casinos and e-gaming establishments are in the pipeline. We are moving to a new era where 24-hours of alcohol services will happen very soon and so we are in tuned with the changing and emerging business environment out here. We are glad that we have the governor's full support as well as the Commerce [Secretary's] confidence in our enforcement efforts," he said.

To enforce the laws effectively, training for not only the division's staff but also the licensees and their employees must be given top priority, he said.

"It is part of our commitment to provide training to business owners and employees prior to license issuance, which include the casino and e-gaming staff who are serving alcoholic beverages. If it's a new business, we train the staff and eventually certify them in responsible serving and handling of alcoholic beverages, which includes certifying licensees engaged in the sale of tobacco and betel nut products," said Maratita.

ABTC enforcement officer John M. Hosono added, "We also have the community in mind. We educate and bring awareness to students and their parents through PTSA meetings about the laws that concern them. We also reach out to students to further their education about our laws and encourage them to stay away from drugs, alcohol and tobacco, including betel nut.

Speaking before last week's public service recognition at the Department of Commerce, Maratita said the division is currently recruiting new staff to beef up the enforcement arm of the department.

"We are currently in the process of recruiting additional enforcement officers so that the department will be more sufficient to cover all the new and emerging businesses in the CNMI, including but not limited to, cross-training of officers in enforcing other regulatory aspects under the department such as pawnshop, banking and insurance regulations" he added.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres also expressed support for ABTC's Enforcement Section. "It is very important when you guys go out there, the authority you have when you give a citation is one that [no one] can question."

Aside from regulating the sale of alcohol, beverage, and tobacco products in the CNMI, ABTC has also been enforcing Public Law 19-66, the Betel Nut Control Act, which prohibits the sale, offer, or giving of areca nut (betel nut) to any person who is under 18 years old. The newly promulgated rule was recently submitted to the Office of the Attorney General for review. The new regulations will serve as the regulatory compliance guidelines consistent with Public Law 19-66 or the Betel Nut Control Act. The public will be asked to submit public comments once the regulations are set for publication prior to adoption. "As soon as the regulations are in place, the ABTC through its outreach program will conduct business and community awareness of the newly adopted rules surrounding the responsibilities of licensees and their agents with respect to the sale of betel nut products," said Maratita.

"While the ABTC division continues to grow with additional mandates provided by law, as a law enforcement agency, it is our duty to closely monitor other illegal activities that violate the business and professions codes, which we are working closely with other law enforcement and regulatory agencies in cracking down illegal activities by collaboratively sharing information and resources," added Maratita.

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Attorney for Petitioner
Armando Villafuerte

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS, Deceased.	CIVIL ACTION NO. 16-0252 NOTICE OF CONDITIONAL APPOINTMENT OF CO-ADMINISTRATRIX

TO: THE SURVIVING HEIRS OF ANGELINA BORJA PEREDO aka ANGELINA P. RIOS, SPECIFICALLY MELINDA T. HOSSAIN AND ANNIE R. TOKYO

This Notice of Conditional Appointment of Co-Administratrix is hereby served upon you by publication to notify you that the Court has conditionally appointed Hilda V. Rios to serve a Co-Administratrix in the above estate. Any objection to this appointment must be made within five weeks of the date of May 2, 2017. To the Law Office of Robert Torres, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel.: (670) 234-7859), Fax: (670) 234-5750.

Dated this 12th day of May, 2017.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk of Court

Women's Health Month
Your health at every age.

Womenshealth.gov
Office on Women's Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

You're in your 40s!

What can you do to live a healthier life?

Be healthier with one, or all, of the steps below! Get the conversation started at your next well-woman visit with this list. A well-woman visit is a yearly preventive checkup with your doctor. It's a time to check in on how you're doing, how you'd like to be doing, and what changes you can make to reach your health goals. In addition to talking with your doctor or nurse about your health, you may also need certain vaccines (shots) and medical tests. You do not need every test every year!

To live a healthy life:

Every Day I Will Try To:

- Eat healthy — go to ChooseMyPlate.gov to get started
- Get at least 30 minutes of physical activity
- Get at least 7 to 8 hours of sleep
- Reach and maintain a healthy weight
- Get help to quit or don't start smoking
- Limit alcohol use to one drink or less
- Not use illegal drugs or misuse prescription drugs
- Wear a helmet when riding a bike and wear protective gear for sports
- Wear a seatbelt in cars and not text and drive
- Take 400 to 800 mcg of folic acid (for premenopausal women)

Talk To My Doctor At Least Once A Year About:

- Whether I plan to have children or the right birth control for me (for premenopausal women)
- Perimenopause symptoms
- My weight, diet, and physical activity level
- My tobacco and alcohol use
- Any violence in my life
- Depression and any other mental health concerns
- My family health history, especially my cancer risk

Ask If I Need These Tests, Medicines, or Vaccines This Year:

- Blood pressure
- Cholesterol
- Diabetes
- Flu
- Hepatitis B and hepatitis C
- HIV
- Mammogram
- Pap and HPV
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Tuberculosis

If you are pregnant, prenatal care can also be a well-woman visit. There are also certain tests during pregnancy to check you and your baby's health. Visit the Pregnancy section at womenshealth.gov to learn what you can do before, during, and after pregnancy to give your baby a healthy start to life and to take care of yourself, too.

For more information, please contact:
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Kagman Community Health Center

4th Anniversary HEALTH FAIR

SATURDAY, 4/8/17, 9:00 AM TO 12:00 PM

Message of Appreciation

The Kagman Community Health Center (KCHC) would like to thank its Partners, Donors, Volunteers, Special Guests/Speakers, Vendors and most especially the Community for their participation and contribution in making KCHC's 4th Anniversary a huge success. Your support is greatly appreciated.

PARTNERS

1 Birth Defects Surveillance, Intervention & Referral to Services Program
2 Dental Program
3 Early Hearing Detection Intervention Program
4 Early Intervention Program
5 Hardt Eye Clinic
6 HIV/STD Program
7 HOME Visiting Program
8 Immunization Program
9 Marianas Eye Institute
10 MCH, Family Planning Program
11 NCD Bureau
12 NMC Nursing Association
13 TB Program

DONORS

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2 Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.
3 Island Apparel
4 Joeten Enterprises, Inc.
5 Marianas Pacific Distributors (MARPAC)
6 McDonald's
7 Tan Siu Lin Foundation
8 Yaong Corporation

NEWSPAPER ADVERTISEMENTS

1 Brabu Pharmacy and Wellness Center
2 CHCC Community Guidance Center
3 CHCC Division of Public Health Services
4 Marianas Variety
5 PHI Pharmacy
6 Saipan Tribune

VOLUNTEERS

1 Kagman High School Color Guard
2 Kagman High School Students

SPECIAL GUESTS/SPEAKERS

1 CEO Esther L. Muna, CHCC
2 Congressman Francisco C. Aguon
3 Congressman Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan
4 Congressman Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero
5 Congresswoman Janet U. Maratita
6 Director Anthony M. Reyes, Jr., CHCC
7 Director Margarita T. Aldan, CHCC
8 KCHC Board Chair Velma Palacios
9 KES Principal Dr. Ignacia T. Demapan
10 Ms. Janice A. Tenorio (BOE)
11 Rev. Fr. Jesse T. Reyes
12 RHC Director Vanessa Q. Hocog
13 THC Acting Director Sylvia San Nicolas

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Learn how to manage tasks and time

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce presents "Task & Time Management," the second in its "customer service excellence" series of workshops for 2017 in partnership with Jim Arenovski of Island Training Solutions. This seminar will take place at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce conference room (Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, Suite 315) on June 15, 2017, from 9am to 12pm. Registration fee is $50 per person for Chamber members and $55 per person for non-members. Light refreshments are included. Reservations and advance payment are required, as seating is limited. To register, call 234-7150 or email us at coordinator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Election commission meeting next week

The Commonwealth Election Commission will meet at 2pm on May 23, 2017, at its office in Susupe. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Susupe office. ***(PR)***

Family Fun Night at Hopwood

The Hopwood Middle School will be having a Family Fun Night Program today, May 19, 2017, from 5pm to 9pm There will be raffle tickets and lots of prizes. Performers include the HDMP Band, Simiyan Marianas, Re-Up, and Saipan Music and Dance Studio. Entrance is free. There will be free games and several food vendors. ***(PR)***

BBQ cookoff at Taste of the Marianas on Saturday

The 19th Annual Taste of the Marianas International Food Festival & Beer Garden will be held Saturday in May at the Garapan Fishing Base from 6pm to 10pm. Registration is open for the first 10 participants in the BBQ Pork Ribs Cookoff co-sponsored by Twins and Hannam supermarkets, with hundreds of dollars in cash, shopping gift certificates, and Taste tokens for the top three winners. This Saturday's entertainment includes the Out of the Ordinary Band, CAB Dancers, Alana'ai, Saipan Music & Dance Studio, UBSES, and Da Kine. Cookoff registration forms and rules are available at www.mymarianas.com, and the last day to register is May 19. ***(MVA)***

NMC 37th Commencement Exercise will stream live online

Families and friends who are not able to attend the Northern Marianas College's 37th Commencement Exercise in person on May 20, 2017, at the Koblerville Gymnasium can watch the event live online. The graduation ceremony will be streamed live at http://www.marianas.edu/graduation2017/. The live stream will begin at approximately 4pm (Local CNMI Time) on Saturday May 20, 2017, and will end at about 6pm. ***(NMC)***

Learn basic Chamorro

Are you interested in learning the basics of Chamorro? Or do you speak Chamorro or understand Chamorro, and just want to practice your Chamorro language skills? The CNMI Motheread/Fatheread Family Literacy Program offers a free Beginner's Chamorro Literacy Class at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library this summer! Read and borrow books translated into Chamorro from the Motheread/Fatheread curriculum. Classes are held every Thursday from May to July. Class schedule: May 18, 25, and June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, from 5pm to 6pm. Completion class on July 1(1pm to 2pm). Call 235-7319/783-7678 or email at cnmimotheread@gmail.com and sign up today. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor visiting Saipan

The U.S. Department of Veterans benefits administration will be visiting Saipan. A VA benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on May 24, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg., Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY(CPA)
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 • Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARFF RAPID REFILL STATION IMPROVEMENTS**, TINIAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS, AIP NO. 3-69-0011-24/XX.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"ARFF Rapid Refill Station Improvements for the Tinian International Airport, Tinian, CNMI, AIP No. 3-69-0011-24/XX"*, and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M., FRIDAY, JUNE 9, 2017**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. Sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read at the Saipan Airport Conference Room immediately after 2:00 p.m. on the same day.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to construction of temporary facilities and silt fences, excavation of ponding basin, demolition of existing water tank, clearing and grubbing at water tank area and ponding basin, disconnection and capping of existing utilities, removal and disposal of existing vegetation, cutting, disposal and restoration of asphalt roadway, driveway and parking pavement, trenching, placement of 6" PVC, 8" PVC, and 12" PVC waterlines with its fittings and appurtenances, and backfill, construction of ponding basin, the construction of a 200,000-gallon glass-fused bolted steel water tank, and its appurtenances, pump house, generator room and its appurtenances, pressure reducing valve with concrete valve vault and its appurtenances, reconnection of existing waterline to the new waterline, installation and relocation of fire hydrants, all in accordance with the Project Drawings and Specifications.

A CD-ROM containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (CD) including the bid schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority and the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **Three Hundred (300) Calendar Days**. Liquidated damages in the amount of **Three Hundred ($300.00) Dollars** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the Tinian International Airport, at **10:00 AM, FRIDAY, MAY 26, 2017**, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will be followed by the pre-bid conference. All prospective bidders are required to attend the pre-bid meeting.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, at least seven (7) days prior to the bid opening date.

Each bid proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders shall use the bid schedule form available on the CD. Each bidder must also supply all information required by the bid proposal documents and specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or misenter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a US Treasury listed surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-25 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 25, 2017

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED BIDS for Design-Build for the Installation of PAPI/REIL at Runway 25 at the Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11 will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP, 96950.

One original and three copies of the sealed bids will be received at the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at **2:00 PM, FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017,** at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. All Bids shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: Saipan International Airport Runway 25 PAPI/REIL Installation, Project No. CPA-SA-001-11.

The Project, in general, consists of, but is not limited to Design-Build to provide a complete Design and Construction for the Runway 25's New Precision Approach Path Indicator (PAPI) and Runway End Identifier Light (REIL) Systems based on the PAPI/REIL System to be supplied by CPA. Design and Installation will include other related support tasks as described and all in accordance with the Statement of Work and other information.

The Project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA). The Contract award, if it is made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days of the receipt of Bid Proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold such Bids in effect for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of Bid opening.

A CD-Rom containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents, including Statement of Work and other information may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, Francisco C. Ada / Saipan International Airport, upon payment of **ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of documents in electronic form, including the Bid Schedule. The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, cashier's check or U.S. Postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority".

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the Saipan International Airport Conference room, at **10:00 AM, MAY 19, 2017** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this Project. Attendance of the Pre-Bid Conference is mandatory.

The Contract period for Design and Construction of the Project in its entirety shall be one hundred eighty (180) calendar days. The performance period shall include all required designs calculations, progress submittal reviews, approval of the final design, complete permitting, procurement of materials, other construction incidentals, system certification, punch list corrections final operational testing, acceptance and other requirements necessary to deliver a complete, usable and dependable PAPI/REIL systems and facilities. Liquidated damages in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars ($500.00) shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day completion of the Project is delayed beyond the Contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low Bidder may be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." The review will include, but is not necessarily limited to, previous projects experience, financial capability, quantity and quality of equipment and personnel, and ability to secure bonding and insurance. If the apparent low Bidder is found to be not "responsive and responsible", their Bid will be rejected and the next lowest Bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

Questions should be submitted to the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, in writing, seven (7) days prior to the date designated above for the bid opening.

Each proposal shall be on a form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The bidders are required to use the bid schedule form on the CD-Rom. The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the procurement contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than **TEN PERCENT (10%)** of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section 70 of the General Provisions. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications, and bid proposal documents are available for inspection at the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders shall comply with all Federal requirements under this Federally funded procurement, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Executive Order 11246, as amended by Executive Order 11375, Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Government-wide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: April 17, 2017

Jones starts re-development of Saipan's southern side

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

JON PEREZ
A soft and comfortable bed will greet visitors once they check in at the Surfrider Hotel. The newly-built hotel is ideal for those who are already familiar with Saipan and wish some "staycation" to escape the daily grind.

Triple J Enterprises Inc. chairman and chief executive officer Robert H. Jones is a visionary who sees the development potential of Saipan's southern side. At least that's how Surfrider Resort Hotel general manager Ryuhei Kono sees him.

Surfrider, in Chalan Kanoa, is located at the site of the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel and the former Silver Resortel and sits right in front of Surf Club. It is among the 33-year-old company's latest projects after opening the Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant and Surf Club in 2016 and Saipan Comfort Homes in March this year.

Surfrider is an ongoing project. It had a soft opening with 21 rooms at its south wing while renovation work continues on the north side of the building and the new lobby. When completed the resort will have a total of 51 total rooms: 11 rooms in the north building and 18 in the lobby, in addition to the current 21.

Surfrider, at present, has nine staff. They cater to people who are here for business or government matters, in addition to the regular budget travelers.

"We target people who come to Saipan either from Guam or other countries. Right now we have a room and car package promotion that includes a room, car rental, and breakfast at Surf Club," Kono said.

"The breakfast is at the beachfront and you would enjoy your stay with the kind of view that you're going to see here. It is very attractive not only for tourists," said Kono.

The room-car-breakfast package costs $148 for a one-night stay, including tax.

The idea behind Surfirder is for light travelers. Its management envisions a client mix of 50-50 comprising tourists and business travelers.

"The place is convenient for travelers who already know their way on Saipan. There's a store nearby and other shops. We also offer a competitive price," said Kono, whose career in the hospitality industry spans more than five decades.

The hotel currently has 21 rooms on the second floor of the south building. Plans are also underway to add five to six rooms on the ground floor.

Kono said that Jones and his wife Margaret have been hands-on in choosing the design of the rooms and the furniture used. "The tropical resort theme was the idea of the owners. Margaret Jones, with the help of interior designer Sophie Chin, had a hand in the decoration. The design fits the overall environment."

Brief history

The Surfrider project began in 2010, according to the company's website, when Triple J acquired a 55-year lease on the property that included the former Pacific Gardenia Hotel. The property was acquired from the Commonwealth Development Authority, including four prime lots near the beach in Chalan Kanoa.

In 2011, Triple J acquired the leasehold interest of the former Silver Resortel, a 22-unit hotel adjacent to Pacific Gardenia. They combined both hotel properties for Surfrider and Surf Club projects. The project broke ground in 2013 and Surf Club opened last year.

Kono said they had to briefly stop construction at the northern part of their hotel project after discovering items of historical significance on the property. They are working closely with the Historic Preservation Office and professional archeologists to ensure proper handling of the finds.

Southern development

The area starting from the Saipan World Resort to the Pacific Islands Club is expected to have more activity in the near future as development is currently taking place. A new hotel is being constructed in San Antonio beside PIC while the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association is building a soccer field in Koblerville.

"Mr. Jones sees the potential in developing the south side of Saipan. He believes the south area has potential. You have Sugar Dock and a lot of nice beaches there. Just add some new attractions—more restaurants, shops and hotels."

"Tourism is a booming market now on Saipan and activity is increasing. We want to cater to all: locals, Koreans, Chinese, and Japanese."

"This is what we need to develop. It would decongest Garapan. Apartments are here—Sandy Beach Homes and Tasi. Joeten is also here. It has potential for development."

PURSUANT TO COURT ORDER

in Civil Action No. 15-0199, styled,
the Bank of Saipan vs
Rudolf W. Leis and Helga G.G. Leis –
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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The WannaCry cyberattack

The particularly nasty computer program dubbed WannaCry that attacked hospitals, businesses and government agencies around the world this past weekend was like a cybercrime highlight reel, a compilation of by-now familiar elementsthat played out on an epic scale.

What's different this time is that the conscience-free hackers apparently had considerable, albeit unwitting, help from the U.S. government. They used a stolen tool reportedly developed by the National Security Agency to exploit a hidden weakness in the Windows operating system and spread their "ransomware" to computers far and wide.

It's tempting to howl at the NSA for not alerting companies like Microsoft when its researchers find vulnerabilities in their products. The reality, though, is that doing so would reduce the effectiveness of cybertools that have become an integral part of modern efforts by agencies like the NSA to fight terrorism, international criminal organizations and rogue states. What's needed is a better effort to determine if and when a vulnerability discovered by the feds represents too great a threat to keep it secret from the potential victims. That's a difficult balance to strike, and the decision shouldn't be made solely by the executive branch without the input of independent experts and, potentially, lawmakers.

The even more important lesson here is that years, even decades of warnings from security experts simply aren't getting through to the public. WannaCry should not have reached disastrous proportions _ Microsoft released a patch that could close the vulnerability in March, well before the NSA's tool was released in usable form. Yet tens of thousands of computers weren't updated, allowing the malware to spread.

The problem could easily get much, much worse as more routine devices become smart, Internet-connected ones. Evidently we need stronger incentives not just for companies to release more secure products, but also for users to keep them updated and to protect their data with encryption and backups. That's what the lawmakers and federal officials should be focusing on _ not on trying to discourage consumers from using encryption on their smartphones, or on building stockpiles of malware based on vulnerabilities they alone have found.

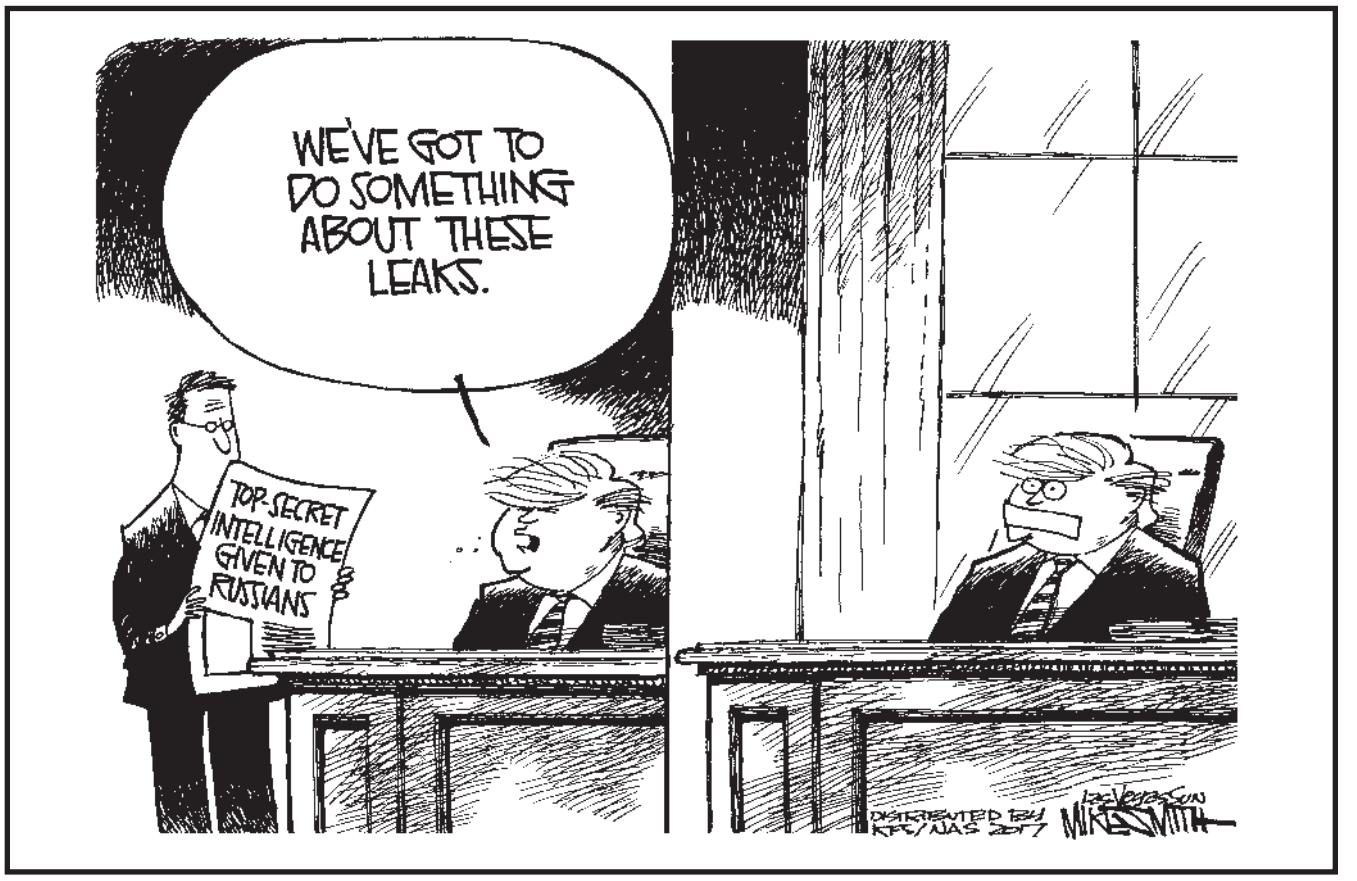
(c)2017 Los Angeles Times

How you might be helping hackers

Authorities worldwide are mopping up after an international ransomware attack disrupted hospitals, factories, government agencies, banks and businesses in 150 countries over the past few days. The latest clues point to hackers possibly linked to North Korea.

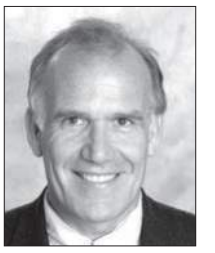
Experts warn that worldwide ransomware attacks could bloom again in the coming weeks. They warn that many com-

See HOW on Next Page



Lessons from the Battle of Midway

By VICTOR DAVIS HANSON
Tribune News Service



Victor Davis Hanson is a classicist and historian at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University and the author, most recently, of The Father of Us All: War and History, Ancient and Modern*. You can reach him by emailing author@victorhanson.com.*

Seventy-five years ago (June 4-7, 1942), the astonishing American victory at the Battle of Midway changed the course of the Pacific War.

Just six months after the catastrophic Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, the U.S. crushed the Imperial Japanese Navy off Midway Island (about 1,300 miles northwest of Honolulu), sinking four of its aircraft carriers.

"Midway" referred to the small atoll roughly halfway between North America and Asia. But to Americans, "Midway" became a barometer of military progress. Just half a year after being surprised at Pearl Harbor, the U.S. Navy had already destroyed almost half of Japan's existing carrier strength (after achieving a standoff at the Battle of the Coral Sea a month earlier).

The odds at the June 1942 battle favored the Japanese. The imperial fleet had four carriers to the Americans' three, backed up by scores of battleships, cruisers and light carriers as part of the largest armada that had ever steamed from Japan.

No military had ever won more territory in six months than had Japan. Its Pacific Empire ranged from the Indian Ocean to the coast of the Aleutian Islands, and from the Russian-Manchurian border to Wake Island in the Pacific.

Yet the Japanese Navy was roundly defeated by an outnumbered and inexperienced American fleet at Midway. Why and how?

American intelligence officers—often eccentric and free to follow their intuitions—had cracked the Japanese naval codes, giving the Americans some idea of the Japanese plan of attack at Midway.

American commanders were far more open to improvising and risk-taking than their Japanese counterparts. In contrast, Japanese Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto created an elaborate but rigid plan of attack that included an invasion of the Aleutian Islands as well as Midway.

But such impractical agendas dispersed the much larger Japanese fleet all over the central and northern Pacific, ensuring that the Japanese could never focus their overwhelming numerical advantages on the modest three-carrier American fleet.

The U.S. Navy was also far more resilient than its Japanese counterpart.

A month earlier at the Battle of the Coral Sea, the Japanese suffered damage to one of their carriers and serious aircraft losses on another. The American carrier Lexington was sunk, and the Yorktown was severely damaged.

But whereas the Japanese took months repairing the bombed carrier Shokaku and replenishing the lost planes of the Zuikaku, the crippled Yorktown was made seaworthy again at Pearl Harbor just 72 hours after limping into port.

The result of such incredible adaptability was that at Midway the Americans had three carriers (rather than two), against four for the Japanese (instead of a possible six).

Midway was probably the best chance for Japan to destroy U.S. naval power in the Pacific before America's enormous war industry created another new fleet entirely.

Just months after Midway, new American Essex-class carriers—the most lethal afloat—would be launched. Before the war ended, 17 of the planned 24 carriers would see action.

In contrast, Japan launched only four more fleet carriers to replace its growing losses. Japanese naval aircraft—the best in the world in 1941—were becoming obsolete by mid-1942.

In contrast, in the months after Midway, tens of thousands of new and superior Hellcat fighters, Avenger torpedo bombers and Helldiver dive bombers rolled off American assembly lines in numbers unmatched by the Japanese.

During the Battle of Midway itself, Japanese Admiral Chuichi Nagumo fatally hesitated in launching his air fleet. He was wedded to rigid doctrine about prepping his planes with the proper munitions.

In contrast, American Admirals Raymond Spruance and Frank Jack Fletcher gambled and sent most of the planes they had at the first inkling of the approaching Japanese fleet.

Japan could not equal American industrial strength, but American aviators and seamen could certainly match the Samurai courage of their Japanese counterparts.

At Midway, 37 of the 41 slow-flying and obsolete American Devastator torpedo bombers lumbered to their deaths, as they were easily picked off by Japanese air cover.

But such heroic sacrificial pawns drew off critical Japanese fighter protection from the fleet. In its absence, scores of high-flying Dauntless dive bombers descended unnoticed to blast the Japanese carriers with near impunity.

Americans took chances to win an incredible victory. The Japanese command chose to play it safe, trying not to lose advantages accrued over the prior six months.

Midway was not the beginning of the end for Japan. Just five months later off the island of Guadalcanal, only one American fleet carrier was left undamaged in the Pacific after a series of brutal sea battles. Instead, to paraphrase Winston Churchill, the victory at Midway was the end of the American beginning.

Before Midway, the Americans had rarely won a Pacific battle; afterwards, they seldom lost. America's culture of spontaneity, flexibility and improvisation helped win the battle; Japanese reliance on rote probably lost it.

We should remember those lessons 75 years later.

Clicking with customers

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

Got $945? That'll buy you one share of stock in Amazon.com. When it went public 20 years ago it was $18 share. This week marked the 20th anniversary of the public offering, so the whole Amazon thing has been in the news a lot.

Are there lessons for the CNMI tourism industry in this? My pals and I think so. We were working full-time on Saipan tourism when we first encountered Amazon and we learned some lessons from it. I might as well mention a couple of them since everybody is talking about Amazon anyway.

Amazon has proven useful as an example of how smooth a customer interaction can be. This has long been a sticking point in the CNMI tourism industry, where tourists have sometimes been underwhelmed with the level of customer service, to include, notably, the service in some restaurants.

Critics will say that a website and a brick-and-mortar business are different things, which is true, but they do have common elements.

If anything, the Web amplifies some of these elements. For example, having to click around unnecessarily because the site is poorly designed might just take a few seconds, but it seems like a long time on the cyber-clock. Many users will just click off and not go back.

Little wonder, then, that Amazon has an uncanny ability to minimize the amount of clicks necessary to buy something. For the customer it's as easy as falling off a log; the process is a seamless slide toward the sale.

Contrast that with, say, a poorly-run restaurant. A customer is ignored upon entering the place. Eventually, a staff member grudgingly puts down their smartphone and seats the customer. After the meal, the customer almost has to send up a signal flare to actually get the check brought over. And then, when it's time to pay, a restaurant that serves a largely foreign clientele acts totally stymied when presented with foreign currency for payment.

In any business, not just restaurants, it's very difficult to give customers a smooth flow through their entire experience. A manager has to really work to find the "click points" where things aren't progressing seamlessly. I'm convinced we can't see this stuff with a familiar eye. We usually need outsiders to help by offering fresh perspectives.

Of course, in a physical setting, customers don't often click off by storming out of the place. They'll usually endure a sub-par experience but they won't go back. In Saipan's case, given the vertical structure of the tourism market, tour agents can have a lot of clout and the feedback they get from their clients can carry a lot of weight.

In addition to giving me a "click point" way of thinking about the flow of customer service, Amazon also showed how price and quality can interact. Yeah, I knew that stuff in theory, but it's been interesting to watch it make inroads into my wallet.

Amazon first came to my attention because its book prices were discounted. Despite its smooth service, I doubt I would have been very interested, at first, if there wasn't a substantial price advantage.

I've spent a lot of my career traveling and I eventually found that, in the mainland, at least, Amazon's quick shipping provided me with a logistical advantage on the road. In these cases, prices became a secondary issue. Speed, competence, and reliability, which is to say, quality, became the key driver for me. Sometimes I'd have books, office supplies, or even computer hardware shipped to hotels. At other times I found it easy to order gifts; if you're stuck in a Dallas airport, and you've got a relative in Duluth who has a birthday, Amazon is a clean play. For these situations I found myself buying from Amazon without bothering to compare prices. Many people have confessed to me that they have the same approach now.

I've seen some tourism economies develop along those lines, where they were low-priced in their early years and then steadily worked their way up the quality- and pricing chain. Other tourism economies haven't been able to pull that off.

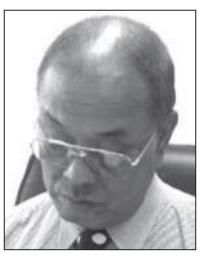
My favorite example of the price-and-quality gig is in the auto industry. It's Toyota. I remember the early 1970s when Toyotas were considered mere economy cars in the U.S. But Toyota also built a reputation for quality. Toyota's line of Lexus vehicles has since become a highly-regarded luxury brand.

Anyway, that's an update on the world of business, or part of it, anyway.

Eruptions rumbling nearby!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



Former deputy DPS commissioner Ambrosio Agumoro has started exposing alleged corruption in the local police department. It pertains to matters he asserts were ignored by his bosses during his tenure at DPS.

It's mind-boggling how Ogumoro was successfully dealt the silencing of the lamb. He was given instructions by then-governor Benigno R. Fitial to handle former AG Ed Buckingham's airport situation. Strange that he was subsequently arrested. The trinity scurried off and left him for dead.

He was dealt a political deathblow for discovering that siblings of the politically powerful were allegedly involved in the misuse of public funds. So the collar of office is used to even absolve their own children and close relatives from the humiliation of arrest while the rest of citizenry must endure it all.

What about the pimping and fornicating with a minor that involved law enforcement officers? Why is it that others have been arrested and incarcerated, yet law enforcement officers got off scot-free? Where is justice in this case? You have done surgical precision covering the gaping wound but it never healed, did it? The law must be made applicable to everyone! Is justice for the privileged few? Is the AG anywhere near the court building?

Ogumoro is using the proverbial coin to show his side of the story. He's submitted it to the OAG for investigation. Look forward to the investigation, specifically how the OAG handles it. Let's see the self-righteous wiggle themselves out of self-concocted mess that is back to haunt them for life.

It's an interesting case how political collusion was used against forthright employees highly mindful of doing the right things by doing them right.

What's the moral of this case? It's time to expose and cleanse the government of corrupt people. Ogumoro said, "If perchance I've erred please accept my apologies, but here's my side of the story." The next time the supposed "powers that be" wish to slaughter a snake make sure it isn't a two-headed creature!

View: The term optics has acquired greater meaning than the synonym perception. It simply means, "How people see issues" they come across daily. It's a good term assessing how you see issues on the islands.

In my quick trips or visits to family and friends I wanted to find out the optics of various issues. The reaction varies from quick intelligent answers to ones with tons of expletives, furious.

Passivity: We seem indifferent, if not okay or acquiescent on issues that matter, donning the "It's not my job" syndrome. This must change in expedited fashion. We must not continue allowing myopic views to rule the day.

We must begin looking critically at the consequence of ignored decisions, not from ill-prepared policymakers but from "we the people." We must insist on real competence in the delivery of public services. It begins with the appointment of qualified people to jobs of responsibility.

CUC: Some were quick to point to the financial posture of the utility agency being in "shambles." An informed citizen related it's all a matter of "competence" obviously missing in recent dispositions.

The quick exit for an "elected this and that" isn't the answer. It's all a matter of doing due diligence in the appointment of competent people. If Raffy looks hard enough he could easily find some of our very own for any and all posts in government. This path could easily provide jobs for returning college grads that now head right back to jetways for lack of opportunities at home.

Number of employees: With over 4,000 government employees it goes to confirm how the new culture of political correctness has turned into excess baggage for taxpayers. "We pay for their loot yet the quality of public services are far below mediocrity."

I could understand where they're coming from, what with stagnant salaries for over 20 years. The excess baggage denies the working people NMI-wide money they should be spending on family needs over useless political hires. This new culture must be set on fire and torched to death!

Taxing BSI: Reps. Janet Maratita and Alice Igitol have a measure to impose a 5 percent tax on income made from the billions of dollars that pass across rollover tables at BSI monthly.

Some lamely chanced that it isn't the right time to tax. Oh please, did you even take Economics 101? How come this casino joint is the only one globally whose income isn't taxed? What's the financial posture of the NMI? EVERbody home on this score or "not yet already?"

Loss of tradition: I recall in the early '70s a class action lawsuit we filed against a land giveaway of prime beach area in Puntan Muchot. It was a fully thought-out decision committed to sustaining and following the footing especially the righteous and just path of our ancestors and elders.

I did it remembering the place where hundreds of families used to catch land crabs and join master fishermen in traditional fishing ground catch reef fish. It was family sustenance on land and along the shore. Fishermen share their catch with the community. It was communal sharing at its best. It was foundational tradition supporting our way of life.

Fiscal posture: The lack of information of the NMI's financial posture doesn't leave much room for purposeful and meaningful planning. It's all ad hoc that usually lack fully thought-out purpose. This is the hallmark of this administration.

Policy: Magoo and friend Denañg were discussing policy, specifically what does it mean? "It's the law intended for the public good," declared Denañg. "Then how come most folks on the hill think it's about the local police department?" Woe!

HOW

From Page 14

puters running outdated (or stolen) software could be vulnerable to hackers who pilfer data, or hold it hostage for ransom.

Hmm. When have we read about similar breaches and often heard similar warnings about computer vulnerabilities?

Oh, right. In 2016 when the Russians were roaming through the Democratic National Committee's email system.

Or in 2015, when the U.S. government revealed that hackers stole a massive trove of data from the federal Office of Personnel Management, exposing sensitive information about millions of people, including federal employees, contractors and their families and friends.

Or when hackers spread Sony's secrets across the internet in 2014.

Or when Russian cybercriminals stole data on more than 500 million Yahoo accounts the same year.

Or earlier this year after WikiLeaks revealed CIA computer hacking secrets for criminals, spies and other foreign malefactors to exploit. (We haven't heard much about the fallout from that, but stay tuned.)

Apparently, the official attitude is the same as it is around the world as people are bombarded by cyber warnings (and invitations to reap riches from people they don't know): What, us worry?

The big questions: Will this latest spate of attacks be a wake-up call to upgrade protections around the world? Or will many people hit the snooze button again?

Microsoft blamed the U.S. government for "stockpiling" software code wielded by the hackers in ransomware attacks. The company's top lawyer argued that the government should report the weaknesses it discovers rather than hold them as weapons to use later. Microsoft attorney Brad Smith wrote that "an equivalent scenario with conventional weapons would be the U.S. military having some of its Tomahawk missiles stolen."

Not quite. Tomahawks hit targets and the blast damage is contained. But cyber attacks can damage computers, and disrupt lives, around the world. Ask all those British patients who couldn't be treated.

Nor is the U.S. immune. Hackers have targeted hospital systems in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles, Boston and Kentucky, The Washington Post reports.

What is needed, however, is for computer users—all of us—to neglect to upgrade security or change passwords. To click on attachments willy nilly. To assume that because our devices haven't yet been captured, they won't be.

The crooks and spies are counting on us. And so far, they haven't been disappointed.

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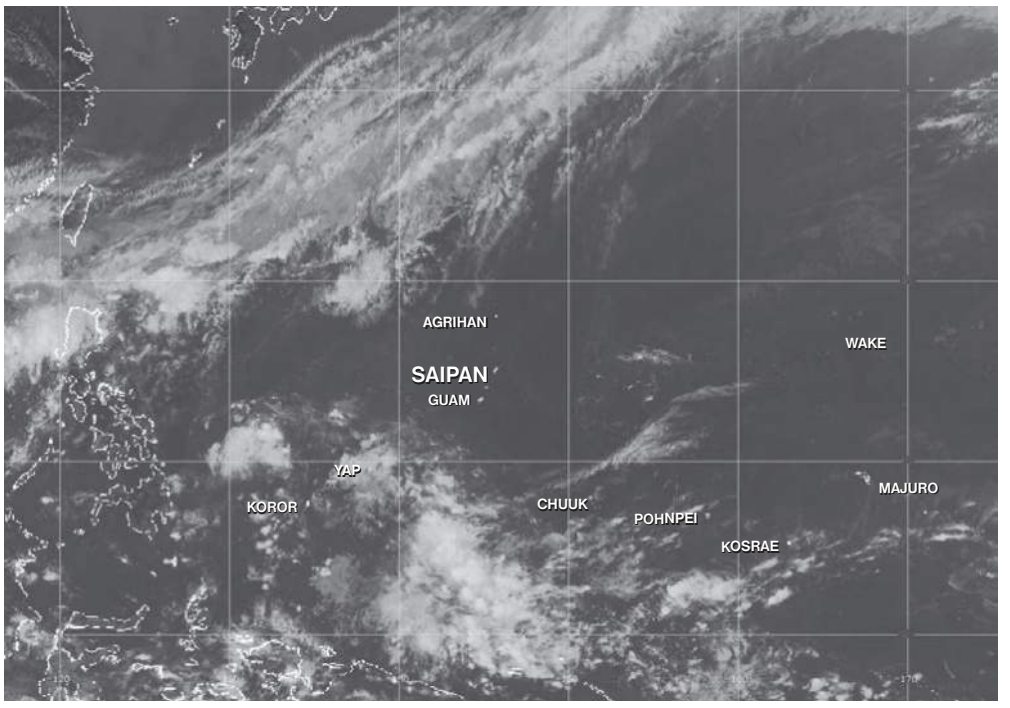
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy.	Sun and a few passing clouds.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine.	Intervals of clouds and sunshine.
▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°	▲86° ▼79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:10 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 18, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes to the inherited forecast. A dry trade-wind pattern will continue across the marianas through Friday. Increasing clouds are then expected Friday night into Saturday night as a weak shear line moves through the region. Clouds are then likely to decrease as the shear line drifts southward and continues to weaken.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	87 | 79 °F
Palau	Thunderstorms	86 | 78 °F
Yap	Partly cloudy	88 | 73 °F
Chuuk	Partly cloudy	87 | 81 °F
Pohnpei	Partly cloudy	87 | 79 °F
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85 | 80 °F

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly cloudy	60 | 56 °F
Beijing	Partly cloudy	85 | 69 °F
Hong Kong	Showers	79 | 75 °F
Honolulu	Sunny	85 | 72 °F
London	Cloudy	62 | 48 °F
Los Angeles	Mostly cloudy	74 | 57 °F
Manila	Partly cloudy	91 | 79 °F
Melbourne	Rain	63 | 54 °F
Miami	Thunderstorms	85 | 79 °F
New York	Thunderstorms	85 | 53 °F
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	79 | 58 °F
Paris	Overcast	62 | 47 °F
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	87 | 57 °F
Rome	Partly cloudy	80 | 59 °F
Salem	Mostly Sunny	72 | 47 °F
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	68 | 51 °F
Seoul	Sunny	79 | 53 °F
Tokyo	Partly cloudy	74 | 61 °F
Washington, DC	Sunny	90 | 60 °F

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
2:16 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.80
8:26 AM	LOW TIDE	1.08
12:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.42
7:51 PM	LOW TIDE	0.23

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Monday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:26 AM	12:21 PM	-
Saturday	1:10 AM	1:13 PM	-
Sunday	1:54 AM	2:07 PM	-
Monday	2:39 AM	3:03 PM	-
Tuesday	3:25 AM	4:01 PM	-

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 25, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:35am	6:25am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:10pm	7:05pm	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily
ZE582	4:25pm	8:35pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	2:55am	6:10am	1, 7
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	4, 5

SAIPAN-JEJU (CJU)

7C3433	3:55am	7:30am	3, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:20am	8:00am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:50am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:50am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:30am	Daily via GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:30pm	5 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/183	1:30pm	9:50pm	1, 4, 7 via Rota-GUM
UA6391/193	1:30pm	11:10pm	5 via Rota-GUM-ROR
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM
UA6390/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA6390/193	2:20pm	11:10pm	2 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

UO43	4:40am	8:10am	1, 3, 4, 6
HX077	2:15am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6391/159	1:30pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via Rota-GUM
UA6390/159	2:20pm	10:35pm	3, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	2:55pm	Daily

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

LJ651	8:25am	1:45pm	Daily
ZE581	10:15am	3:35pm	Daily
7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:15pm	1:35am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:30am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	8:30pm	1:20am+1	6, 7
OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6
7C3452	9:35pm	2:15am+1	3, 4

JEJU (CJU)-SAIPAN

7C3434	10:05pm	2:40am+1	2, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:50pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:20pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA184/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:50pm	12:45am+1	3, 7
UO42	4:50pm	12:05am+1	2, 6
UO42	6:05pm	1:10am+1	1
UO42	6:10pm	1:10am+1	4
UA116/6395	9:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, ZE Eastar Jet, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
6:30AM	6:45AM	Mon, Tue, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
12:30NN	12:45NN	Daily
1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily
6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
12:00NN	12:15NN	Daily
1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO ROTA

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
7:45AM	8:15AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:00PM	4:30PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

ROTA TO SAIPAN

DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
4:45PM	5:15PM	Mon, Tues,Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat

$1.2M ad exposure for NMI on Fuji TV

MVA

"Marianas-chan" (Marianas child) Jebro Leon welcomes Fuji TV's "Non-stop" hosts Chiaki and Hitomi Nakamura to the Marianas during the program's episode airing on May 5, 2017. The program brought $1.2 million in ad exposure to the islands.

The Marianas has received $1.2-million in ad exposure on top Japan national network Fuji TV with the May 5 airing of morning show "Non-Stop," featuring the destination.

The 30-minute program "Golden Week Special: Saipan Active Travel with Chiaki" was hosted by program celebrity hostess Chiaki and Fuji TV announcer Nitomi Nakamura.

Of seven major channels, Fuji TV received the largest viewership during the 10:15am broadcast on the national holiday in Japan.

"The advertising value received in exchange for the Marianas Visitors Authority's investment for this filming is tremendous, and I've congratulated our team on their good work," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "I've also received feedback from Japanese contacts who saw the show, and they were all impressed. We thank our various partners for their in-kind donations, as each of them helped make this possible."

The two hosts began their tour at Obyan Beach with Marianas-chan (Marianas child) Jebro Leon as their guide. They went on to highlight newer attractions on Saipan, including Surf Club, Terry Snack Bar, Marianas Ocean, iHop, and Zen. Visitor favorites were also featured, including Managaha, T Galleria, Joeten, Mt. Tapochao, massage at Mariana Resort & Spa, snorkeling at Grotto, and barbecue beachside dining at Aqua Resort Club.

Chiaki also posted 40 images about the trip on her blog and Instagram account, which has over 100,000 followers.

"Marianas-chan" (Marianas child) Jebro Leon welcomes Fuji TV's "Non-stop" hosts

Chiaki and Hitomi Nakamura to The Marianas during the program's episode airing on May 5, 2017. The program brought $1.2-million in ad exposure to the islands. ***(MVA)***

Child seat, seatbelt checkpoints set

SAIPAN

The Department of Public Safety's Highway Patrol will be conducting occupant protection and child restraint on May 24, 27, and 30.

On May 24, Wednesday, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa from 7am to 9am.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Puerto Rico to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau from 10am to 12pm.

On May 27, Saturday, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Garapan to Beach Road, Susupe from 5pm to 7pm.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Pale Arnold, Garapan to Chalan Pale Arnold, Chalan Laulau from 8pm to 10pm.

On May 30, the first checkpoint will be from Beach Road, Chalan Laulau to Beach Road, San Antonio from 9am to 11am.

The second checkpoint will be from Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, San Jose to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Dandan from 12pm to 2pm.

In addition, police will be conducting laser speed enforcement along various highways. ***(PR)***

TINIAN

The Tinian Department of Public Safety Highway Patrol will be conducting occupant protection and child restraint checkpoints.

On May 23, Tuesday, the checkpoint stop will be on the eastbound lane of the baseball field from 11am to 12:15pm.

On May 24, Wednesday, the first setup will be by Broadway Road on the northbound lane from 11am to 12:15pm. The second setup will be by the Youth Center's southbound lane from 4pm to 5:15pm.

On May 25, Thursday, the first setup will be by the Marpo Valley Road on the westbound lane from 6am to 7:15am. The second setup will be at the baseball field's eastbound lane from 11am to 12:15pm. The third setup will be on the southbound lane of Broadway Road next to Tinian Hardware from 4pm to 5:15pm. ***(PR)***

ROTA

The Department of Public Safety's Rota Highway Patrol Section will be conducting seatbelt/child seat restraint checkpoints.

On Monday, May 22, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the road by San Isidro Church. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, San Francisco highway by the Pinatang Park.

On Wednesday, May 24, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am by the San Francisco Highway at the Sinapalo 3 Park. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm will be at the San Francisco highway Uyulan area.

On Thursday, May 26, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am, San Francisco highway Igua area. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, San Francisco highway Guata area.

On May 29, 2017, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the San Francisco highway Tatgua area. The second setup is from 6pm to 7:15pm, along the San Francisco highway Tatachog area.

On June 2, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am at the San Francisco highway Tatachog area. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm is at the San Francisco highway Sonton area.

On June 3, the first setup is from 6am to 7:15am along the San Francisco highway Lotgan area. The second setup from 6pm to 7:15pm will be along the San Francisco highway by Teteto beach.

In addition, traffic and patrol officers will be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrols, aggressive driver interdictions, and laser (speed detection) enforcement. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-17-030

MAUI SHAFT WELLS REHABILITATION PROJECT, SAIPAN, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms to develop the method and perform the construction work to remove the cave in soil material in the Maui 4 Shaft Well tunnel and rehabilitate the existing buildings, platforms, shaft, electrical components, mechanical lift system and all other items listed in the scope of work for the Maui 1 and 4 shaft wells. Payment is only for the items completely installed and accepted by CUC. The duration of the contract is **375 calendar days** from date of award.

This project is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be conducted at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room 17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan on **May 25, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Immediately after the conference, a Site Visit to the Maui Shaft Wells facility will be conducted. Proposers shall familiarize themselves with the site conditions prior to submitting the proposal.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RFP-17-030 –Maui Shaft Wells Rehabilitation Project"* to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than June 12, 2017 at 10:00 AM (ChST).** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: https://marianaslabor.net/. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 30, 2017** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to LCDR Travis Spaeth P.E. CUC Water-Wastewater Senior Engineer via email address travis.spaeth@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address Marcela.Tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, Jr.
Purchasing Administrator

CIP PROGRAM OFFICE, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
RFQ17-GOV-151

CONSTRUCTION SERVICES
Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity Contract

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lleutenant Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Public Assistance (PA) Office, (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the Supply of Materials, Labor & Equipment for the Repairs/Renovation and/or New Construction of Public Facilities as a result of Typhoon Soudelor (FEMA DR-4235-MP) for the islands of Saipan and Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. Public law 15-95 local Preference Act, as amended by Public law 15-118 does not apply to this federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

The proposal package and Scope of Services will be available on Friday, May 19, 2017 at the Governor's Public Assistance Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, CNMI. A MANDATORY Pre-Proposal meeting is scheduled on Wednesday, May 31, 2017, at 10:00am at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP. Questions regarding the Request for Proposals must be submitted in writing to Ms. Reyna Saures, Public Assistance Officer, facsimile to (670) 664-2408 or email reynasaures.pa@gmail.com no later than 4 p.m., ChST, June 7, 2017.

The total proposal length shall not exceed 15 pages in length. Note, a firm that submits a proposal as a prime contractor cannot submit as a subcontractor on another proposal. However, as a subcontractor, a company may be included in multiple proposals by different contractors. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1.	Qualifications & Experience in Construction including Firm's Profile	30%
2.	Work load and resources to accomplish work	30%
3.	Past performance with the CNMI Government on similar projects	15%
4.	Project and/or Management Approach	15%
5.	Visual examples of previous works	10%

Performance time for completion of the repair, renovation, improvements, and/or new construction will be dependent on the type of project. Liquidated damages will be assessed and shall be the greater of (i) Two Hundred Dollars (US$200.00), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by the number of calendar days of the contract time, the contract time and contract price being determined at the time of the assessment of liquidated damages for each and every day beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with the top five (5) ranked firms. The Public Assistance Office may elect to retain all of the top five (5) firms. The successful proposers will be subjected to a responsibility and Page 3 of 9 responsiveness determination in compliance with Section 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Depending on the number of projects, the Public Assistance Office will request each firm to submit a price quotation for these projects and selection will be based on the lowest cost.

Proposals must be sealed and marked **RFQ17-GOV-151, SUPPLY OF MATERIALS, LABOR AND EQUIPMENT FOR VARIOUS PUBLIC ASSISTANCE PROJECTS.** For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, June 16, 2017. Proposers located outside the CNMI shall obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to propose. Notices of Intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m., ChST, June 16, 2017, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail toprocurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S.

Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, June 16,2017, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than June 28, 2017. Failure to submit the required number of copies ofthe proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government. All proposals shall become the property ofthe CNMI government.

/s/ Virginia C. Villagomez
Governor's Authorized Representative

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director of Procurement & Supply

Business

EU says Philippines declines new EU grants

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippines will no longer accept assistance from the European Union, forgoing grants possibly worth more than 250 million euros ($ 278.7 million) for development projects in the country.

The EU delegation in Manila said the Philippine government informed it about its decision Wednesday, but it has yet to receive a written notice. Executive Secretary Salvador Medialdea, in a text reply to the Associated Press, said the move was "to discourage them from interfering with our internal affairs."

President Rodrigo Duterte earlier had challenged the EU to stop its assistance after the bloc warned that the Philippines risks losing tariff-free exports to Europe because of the thousands killed in the war on drugs launched by Duterte and Manila's moves to revive the death penalty.

"The President has approved the recommendation of the Department of Finance not to accept grants from the EU that may allow it to interfere with internal policies of the Philippines," presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said Thursday.

EU Ambassador Franz Jessen said more than 250 million euros ($278.7 million) worth of grants was at stake.

"We are still awaiting more detailed clarification from the government," Jessen said in an email to the AP. "The amount possibly concerned by the new decision is 250 million euro plus. For this year the amount affected could be 100 million euro."

Development projects currently using EU assistance include a 35 million euro ($39 million) grant to support the peace process with Muslim rebels in the southern Philippines.

The EU is also the largest foreign investor in the Philippines, the only member of the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations to enjoy duty-free exports under EU's Generalized Scheme of Preferences + or GSP+ incentives for developing countries.

The Philippine's duty-free exports to EU was worth around 1.6 billion euros ($1.78 million) in 2016, according to EU delegation data.

In March, the EU summoned a Philippine envoy to explain an expletive-laden tirade by Duterte, who threatened to hang EU officials for opposing his efforts to re-impose the death penalty.

The EU's external action service, the equivalent of a foreign office, said it hauled Charge d'Affaires Alan Deniega to its Brussels headquarters to provide "an explanation for the recent, unacceptable comments of President Duterte."

The move highlights growing European exasperation with the president. Earlier, the EU denied his allegations that it proposed solving the Philippines' drug problem by creating treatment clinics where illegal drugs such as methamphetamine or cocaine would be dispensed.

Japan economy expands at 2.2 pct. annual pace in Jan-Mar

TOKYO (AP)—Japan reports that its economy grew at a faster-than-expected 2.2 percent annual pace in January-March.

Economists had forecast a strong expansion in the first quarter for the world's third-largest economy, helped by a recovery in exports and consumer spending. But most estimates had not topped 2 percent.

The figures released Thursday are preliminary and likely to be revised.

The economy grew at a 1.2 percent pace in the last quarter of 2016.

Recent data suggest a weakening of corporate spending on factory equipment that may pull growth lower in the current quarter.

"Japan's economy is on its longest streak of expansion in more than a decade," Marcel Thieliant of Capital Economics said in a commentary. "However we expect a slowdown in the second half of the year,' he said.

On a quarterly basis, the economy expanded 0.5 percent in January-March.

AP

A man looks at an electronic stock board showing Japan's Nikkei 225 index at a securities firm in Tokyo, Wednesday, May 10, 2017.

Japan's central bank is pumping trillions of yen (tens of billions of dollars) into the economy each month through asset purchases to counter deflation and boost growth. That has kept the economy growing, but generally at a slower pace than hoped for.

Economists say that lagging growth in wages is hindering the recovery. Unemployment has dipped to levels not seen since the early 1990s, but instead of boosting salaries, companies have tended to hire more part-time or temporary workers at lower wages to save on costs.

Major corporations are investing more heavily abroad, in markets that promise faster growth than in aging Japan, where the population is shrinking.

Construction in preparation for the 2020 games is expected to pick up in the coming year, though the BOJ has estimated it will contribute only a fraction of a percentage to GDP growth in 2018.

Heart-shaped diamond sells for $13M, under auction estimate

GENEVA (AP)—A heart-shaped diamond billed as the largest of its kind to be auctioned off sold for less than the pre-sale estimate Wednesday, fetching a hammer price of 13 million Swiss francs (about $13.3 million.)

The 92-carat "La Legende" was the standout piece among some 250 jewels put on the block during the day at Christie's in Geneva. It had been expected to go for $14 million to $20 million.

The diamond dangles from a pearl necklace in a piece designed by Paris' centuries-old Boehmer & Bassenge jewelers.

Christie's said that including the buyer's premium, the Legende sold for $15 million—a new high for a heart-shaped diamond sold at auction. The previous record had been set six years ago at Christie's, with a 56-carat stone that sold for $10.9 million.

Francois Curiel, the Asia-Pacific chairman for Christie's, said the sale overall reaped $93 million.

He declined to identify the buyer of the standout stone. But he said those who made purchases in the auction came from all around.

"There were quite a few Chinese buyers, but maybe a little bit less then we've had normally," he said. "America and Europe dominated."

AP

A Christie's employee displays The flawless heart-shaped Boehmer and Bassenge "La legende" diamond during a preview at the Christie's, in Geneva, Switzerland, Thursday, May 11, 2017.

The sale capped two days of high-profile jewelry auctions in Geneva.

A 14.54-carat flawless Fancy Vivid Blue diamond earring that was the headline offering Tuesday at rival Sotheby's also fell short of its pre-sale estimate. It was paired with a pear-shaped pink diamond earring. Together, the pair went for more than $57 million.

New Las Vegas casino-resort pushes opening date to 2020

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A years-delayed multibillion-dollar casino-resort project on the Las Vegas Strip that would cater to the city's Chinese and Chinese-American tourists announced Wednesday that it is pushing back its opening date by another year to 2020.

The new delay is the result of an overhaul of the original design meant to attract younger gamblers, said Edward Farrell, the veteran casino industry executive leading the $4 billion, 3,000-room Resorts World Las Vegas project.

The plans of Malaysia-based Genting Group for the site on the Strip's northern end include a 100,000-square-foot (9,300-square-meter) casino, dining options of authentic Asian cuisine and retail space.

"The initial drawing had a lot of traditional, older Chinese architecture and elements that were within it," said Farrell, whose appointment was announced Wednesday. "The company has really taken a look at the market in Las Vegas throughout the past couple of years, and it has really shifted to something that's much more modern."

He described the new design as "much more Shanghai than maybe Beijing, with technology and a modern looking feel."

Genting Group owns resort-casinos around the world and bought the Las Vegas property in 2013 from Boyd Gaming for $350 million. Boyd had started building a hotel complex on the site of the former Stardust casino when the recession hit, leaving the steel-and-concrete skeleton of the project standing dormant.

The original opening date for Resorts World Las Vegas was 2016, but the developer and the top-elected official in Clark County, where the property is located, said they are confident the project will be finished.

"There were a lot of stops and starts with this project, some redesigns, but from the dialogue we had this morning, I'm very convinced that they've got a plan moving forward, and they are committed to a specific timeframe," said Clark County commission chairman Steve Sisolak.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
20,606.93	2,357.03	6,011.24
-372.82	-43.64	-158.63
0.46%	-1.82%	-2.57%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.3404	Hong Kong Dollar	6.8918	Russian Ruble	57.198
British Pound	0.772	Indian Rupee	64.355	Singapore Dollar	1.4451
Canadian Dollar	1.3619	Japanese Yen	111.254	South Korean Won	1.3909
Chinese Yuan	6.8918	Malaysian Ringgit	4.3275	Swiss Franc	0.9806
Euro	0.8972	New Zealand Dollar	1.4424	Taiwan Dollar	30.219
		Philippine Peso	49.82	Thailand Baht	34.47

Nation

Special prosecutor abruptly named to probe Trump-Russia ties

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department abruptly appointed former FBI Director Robert Mueller Wednesday night as a special counsel to lead a federal investigation into allegations that Donald Trump's campaign collaborated with Russia to sway the 2016 election that put him in the White House. Mueller will have sweeping powers and the authority to prosecute any crimes he uncovers.

The surprise announcement to hand the probe over to Mueller, a lawman with deep bipartisan respect, was a striking shift for Trump's Justice Department, which had resisted increasingly loud calls from Democrats for an outside prosecutor. It immediately escalated the legal stakes—and the potential political damage—for a president who has tried to dismiss the matter as partisan witch hunt and a "hoax."

The announcement, the latest in the shock-a-day Washington saga, was made by deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein. The White House counsel's office was alerted only after the order appointing Mueller was signed, said a senior White House official, who was not authorized to speak publicly by name and commented only on condition of anonymity.

In a written statement, Trump insisted anew there were no nefarious ties between his campaign and Russia.

"A thorough investigation will confirm what we already know—there was no collusion between my campaign and any foreign entity," he declared. "I look forward to this matter concluding quickly."

Mueller's broad mandate gives him not only oversight of the Russia probe, but also "any matters that arose or may arise directly from the investigation." That would surely include Trump's firing last week of FBI Director James Comey.

AP
Television network crews begin their evening news broadcast from the driveway outside the West Wing of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

Mueller, a former federal prosecutor at the Justice Department, was confirmed as FBI director days before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks that would ultimately shape his tenure. The FBI's counterterror mission was elevated in those years, as the U.S. intelligence agencies adjusted to better position America to prevent another attack of such magnitude. He was so valued that President Barack Obama asked him to stay on two years longer than his 10-year term.

Comey succeeded him, appointed by Obama.

Mueller was appointed Wednesday by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who had faced criticism as the author of a memo that preceded Comey's firing. Rosenstein said the appointment was "necessary in order for the American people to have full confidence in the outcome."

Republicans have largely stood behind Trump in the first months of his presidency as FBI and congressional investigations into Russia's election meddling intensified. But GOP lawmakers have grown increasingly anxious since Trump fired Comey, who had been leading the bureau's probe—and after Comey associates said he had notes from a meeting in which Trump asked him to shut down the investigation into the Russia ties of former National Security Adviser Michael Flynn.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-COTA/FTA-148

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 19, 2017 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) MEDIUM-DUTY LOW FLOOR ADA ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT BUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **MAY 19, 2017** AT COTA , OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANA BUSINESS PLAZA, NAURU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB17-DPS-149

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 8, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) CLASS "I" VEHICLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3 – 725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS; OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF DPS

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

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Kanoa Resort
Saipan

ONE (1) GENERAL MANAGER

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:
Plan, direct, and coordinate the daily operation of a 224-room hotel facility. Formulates policies, manages budgets, maintains statistical financial records, reviews and approves plans for maintenance work, events and room bookings. Individual must be able to lead a management team, develop and execute strategic business plans that define profitability objectives, operational/product goals, guest loyalty and satisfaction and team member engagement objectives. Ensures that the hotel facility is in compliance with federal and local government health and safety legislation and licensing regulations. Position may also include periodic travel to Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc., dba Fiesta Resort Guam when necessary, to attend Board and Management meetings.

DESIRABLE QUALIFICATIONS:
• High School Graduate.
• Six (6) years experience in Hospitality/Tourism Industry, at least three (3) years out of the six in management position

Interested individuals please send your resume with a list of references, photocopy of a valid photo identification card & updated police clearance to:

Kanani Sablan
Human Resources Manager
Asia Pacific Hotels, Inc. dba Kanoa Resort
P.O. Box 500369
Saipan, MP 96950
Contact no. 670-234-6601
E-mail: kanani_sablan@kanoaresort.com

WE ARE AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO: CPA-RFP-010-17
SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 09, 2017 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT INTERIOR PLANTS RENTAL, SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA), 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING WORKING WORKS BEGINNING MAY, 19, 2017.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE IN WRITING AND ADDRESS TO THE PROCUREMENT OFFICER, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY EITHER BY FACSIMILE AT 234-5962 OR EMAIL: atudela@cpa.gov.mp NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M., JUNE 02, 2017.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CPA. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI Government
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-009-17
SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2017 TIME: 4:00 P.M.
"PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF SIX (6) ENERGY EFFICIENT COMMERCIAL AIR CONDITIONING CONDENSING UNITS AT THE BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2017.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND FOUR (4) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED: "**RFP FOR THE PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY, AND INSTALLATION OF 6 COMMERCIAL AIR CONDITIONERS AT THE BENJAMIN T. MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, ROTA (RFP-009-17)".** BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS PRICE PROPOSAL.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

US: Immigrant arrests soar under Trump, fewer deported

AP

Maria Paez hugs her father Armando as they stand next to her mother Marta near the Delta counter at the South Bend International Airport trying to figure out what to do while waiting for an ICE agent who was supposed to bring Armando his passport and paperwork in order for him to self-deport, Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in South Bend, Ind.

SANTA ANA, Calif. (AP)—U.S. immigration arrests increased nearly 40 percent in early 2017 as newly emboldened agents under President Donald Trump detained more than 40,000 people suspected of being in the country illegally—with a renewed focus on immigrants without criminal convictions.

The numbers released by Acting Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director Thomas Homan provide a snapshot of how the new president is carrying through on his campaign promises to make immigration enforcement a top priority.

Overall, 41,300 people were arrested for deportation, a 38 percent increase from a comparable period last year. Nearly 11,000 had no criminal convictions, more than double the number of immigrants without criminal convictions arrested during a comparable period last year.

Homan said the increase in arrests stems from stepped up immigration enforcement, adding that morale has improved among agents under Trump because they are "allowed to do their job."

"Their job is to enforce the law, and that is exactly what they're doing, he said.

Even so, deportations were down from late January to late April compared with a year ago despite the new president's stepped up immigration enforcement pledge.

The increase in arrests of people without criminal convictions has generated outrage across the U.S. from Trump opponents who believe otherwise law-abiding families are being rounded up.

The report was made public as the Trump administration seeks to promote its accomplishments despite a growing scandal over the firing of the FBI director and the sharing of intelligence with Russian officials.

The president "puts this out to distract from the real affairs of our country," said Angelica Salas, executive director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights in Los Angeles. "It is unfortunate that he basically is using the pain and destroying our families as a way by which to give red meat to his base."

Some highlights in the numbers:

■ 41,300 immigrants were arrested on suspicion of being in the country illegally between Jan. 22 and Apr. 29, up from 30,000 from Jan. 24 to April 30 last year.

■ 30,500 of those arrested had criminal convictions, compared to 25,800 for the earlier period.

■ 10,800 did not have criminal convictions, compared to 4,200 in the previous period.

Immigration enforcement operations have generated headlines nationwide since Trump signed an executive orders on immigration on Jan. 25. Many of them targeted violent offenders with felony records on crimes ranging from assault to murder.

But other immigrants have also been caught up in enforcement efforts, including people who received leniency under the Obama administration.

Silvia Avelar-Flores, a 31-year-old mother of three from Utah, was picked up by immigration agents enforcing an old deportation order last month while she was shopping with her 8-year-old daughter in a Salt Lake City suburb.

Chelsea Manning said 'looking forward to so much' after release

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Army Pvt. Chelsea Manning, spared by presidential clemency from the rest of a 35-year prison term for giving classified materials to anti-secrecy website WikiLeaks, stepped out of a military lockup Wednesday and into a future she said she was eager to define.

"I'm figuring things out right now—which is exciting, awkward, fun, and all new for me," Manning said by email hours after being released from confinement at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, having served seven years behind bars for one of the largest exposing of classified information in U.S. history.

"I am looking forward to so much! Whatever is ahead of me is far more important than the past," added Manning, 29.

Manning's immediate plans, including living arrangements, remained unclear. The Oklahoma native had previously tweeted that she planned to move to Maryland, where she has an aunt, but her attorneys have cited security concerns in refusing to make public specifics about her release or where she was headed. The Army is allowing her to live where she pleases—still on active duty but under a special, unpaid status.

Manning relished her newfound freedom, posting on social media photos of her lunch—"So, (I'm) already enjoying my first hot, greasy pizza," she declared of the slice of pepperoni—and her feet in sneakers, with the caption, "First steps of freedom!!"

Manning, who is transgender and was known as Bradley Manning before she transitioned in prison, was convicted in 2013 of 20 counts, including six Espionage Act violations, theft and computer fraud. She was acquitted of the most serious charge of aiding the enemy.

Manning, a former intelligence analyst in Iraq, has acknowledged leaking the materials, including more than 700,000 military and State Department documents, along with battlefield video. Manning said she wanted to expose what she considered to be the U.S. military's disregard of the effects of war on civilians and that she released information that she didn't believe would harm the U.S.

ACROSS THE NATION

Chicago man charged in fatal beating posted on Facebook

CHICAGO (AP)—A Chicago man is being held without bond in the fatal beating of another man that someone videotaped on a cellphone and later posted on Facebook. Prosecutors say the beating of 41-year-old Charles Johnson occurred Nov. 28. Antwan McNutt was arrested May 9 in Madison, Wisconsin, and is charged with first-degree murder. Assistant State's Attorney Craig Taczy said Wednesday the beating of Johnson occurred outside a Chicago Transit Authority rail station in the middle of the day. Taczy says McNutt encountered Johnson and began beating him with a bottle. Taczy told a judge Wednesday in court that several people watched the beating and at least one took a cellphone video. It was later posted on Facebook. Assistant Public Defender Brett Balmer says McNutt isn't believed to have videotaped the attack or posted it online.

Bicyclists across globe pedal in Ride of Silence for safety

GLOUCESTER TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP)—Bicyclists across the world have pedaled quietly in their annual Ride of Silence to honor those injured or killed while cycling. The ride took place Wednesday in Gloucester Township, New Jersey, and hundreds of other locations to raise awareness that cyclists share roadways with motorists. The Ride of Silence is part of a global movement involving thousands of cyclists who ride on the third Wednesday in May without saying a word. Organizers say rides were held on every continent and in all 50 U.S. states and zero words were spoken. Gloucester Township ride leader Debbie Kaighn says about 100 people took part in her ride, which was supported by police. She says participants placed flowers at a rider-less bicycle honoring retired Roxbury police Lt. Joseph Franklin, who died in a bicycle crash last year.

Jury acquits Tulsa cop in shooting of unarmed black man

TULSA, Okla. (AP)—A jury on Wednesday acquitted of first-degree manslaughter a white Oklahoma police officer who says she fired out of fear last year when she killed an unarmed black man with his hands held above his head. The family of Terence Crutcher burst into tears and reacted with outrage after jurors found Tulsa officer Betty Jo Shelby not guilty in the Sept. 16 shooting. "Let it be known that I believe in my heart that Betty Shelby got away with murder," Crutcher's father, Rev. Joey Crutcher, said after the verdict was announced. A lawyer for Shelby said the officer was "elated" that the jury found her not guilty. "She's ready to get back to her life," Defense Attorney Shannon McMurray said. Shelby looked stone-faced when the verdict was read, but Crutcher's family was quickly ushered out of the courtroom sobbing and wailing.

White lawmaker's monkey email sparks outrage at statehouse

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (AP)—A white Alabama legislator who stirred outrage after sending an email that black lawmakers on Wednesday condemned as racist has apologized. Republican Rep. Lynn Greer, of Rogersville, forwarded a constituent email to dozens of legislators and lobbyists that described an experiment in which caged monkeys will eventually stop reaching for a dangling banana as they slowly accept the status quo because their predecessors were punished. The email was sent as black lawmakers used procedural tactics in the House and Senate to oppose proposed new legislative districts they said minimized black voters' influence. Greer apologized and said the email was meant to be a joke about the need to replace incumbents. However, black lawmakers said its intent was clearly racial. The bubbling tensions threatened to derail the final days of the legislative session. "We have been subjected to the most racial insult that I've ever seen," House Black Caucus Chairman John Knight said of Greer's email. "There is no place in the statehouse. It is insulting and it is unacceptable." Greer issued a statement apologizing for the email and met with the black lawmakers to apologize in person. He said he didn't see the email as racist.

MIT student sues CIA for info on Twitter jokes

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)—A Massachusetts doctoral student is trying to force the CIA to open up about how it uses jokes on social media. The CIA has been on Twitter since June 2014 when it tweeted, "We can neither confirm nor deny that this is our first tweet." It was a humorous nod to the agency's secrecy. Now, Amy Johnson, a doctoral candidate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is suing the CIA for failing to turn over documents she requested under open records laws in 2015. She is seeking, among other things, any training documents regarding the use of social media. Her lawsuit says the matter is important to study because it's rare for a federal agency, especially one with such serious duties, to employ humor in its public communications.

Asia

Asian funerals go green, high-tech at Hong Kong trade fair

Wicker and seagrass coffins are displayed at the Asia Funeral and Cemetery Expo & Conference in Hong Kong, Thursday, May 18, 2017. T AP

HONG KONG (AP)—Death is inevitable but it doesn't have to be bad for the environment.

Caskets made of paper and wicker coffins on display at a recent Hong Kong funeral industry trade highlighted a trend toward "green burials" in an industry booming as Asia's population rapidly ages.

Chinese businessman Alex Sun's company, Shandong Ecoffin International, makes wicker and seagrass coffins, which first became popular in the West and are now catching on in Asia. Basket-weaving dates to the Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD) in northeast China's Shandong province, where Sun's factory uses fast-growing willow reeds to make caskets that are an eco-friendly alternative to wood.

"Eco funerals are a global trend," said Sun. "European customers already know about this product, while Asian customers are also interested in it and would love to learn more," he said. Interest is especially high in the Philippines, Malaysia and Vietnam as well as mainland China, he said.

The mood was bright, not funereal, as coffin makers, morticians, funeral home operators and entrepreneurs converged on Hong Kong this week for the Asia Funeral and Cemetery Expo & Conference, a trade fair held every other year.

Participants were pitching caskets for pets, Italian hearses, German cremators with high-tech filters and Japanese mobile embalming units. From China, Truthkobo Jewelry offered pendants made with ashes from deceased relatives or pets while Shenyang Roundfin was looking for international distributors for its autopsy tables, morgue fridges and body bags.

The death industry is a lucrative market: Asia's aging population is projected to hit 923 million by midcentury, according to the Asian Development Bank, putting the region on track to become the oldest in the world.

The region's funeral services market has been growing steadily and is now worth about $62.6 billion a year, with China accounting for nearly half of that, according to data from market research firm Euromonitor.

"This is a very promising industry in China," said Gloria Chuang, marketing director at Yu Fu Xiang Memorial Group, a Chinese funeral services company.

But she said the industry in China needs to expand and to modernize. Most funeral home operators are family-run outfits selling one-size-fits all services. They're not transparent about prices and other information for services and products like coffins and urns, she said.

That's partly because, as in many places, talk of death is taboo.

"A lot of the funeral service industry is backwards," she said. "Our culture dictates that Chinese people are very sensitive to talk about matters of death. Therefore this industry has become a very closed one."

Under Mao Zedong, who ruled China until his death in 1976, elaborate funerals, like many other customs, were officially condemned as feudal superstition and fell out of favor, though they persisted in many rural areas. Such rituals have seen a revival in recent years as the economy boomed, as the newly rich use lavish funeral rites to show off their social status and the accumulation of wealth.

Gunmen attack state TV in eastern Afghanistan, 10 killed

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Gunmen stormed the local headquarters of Afghanistan's state media in the eastern Nangarhar province on Wednesday, setting off clashes that killed 10 people, officials said.

Inamullah Miakhial, a spokesman for the provincial hospital in Nangarhar, said four state TV employees and two police officers were among those killed, and that 18 other people were wounded.

Interior Ministry spokesman Najib Danish said four attackers were killed in the assault, which began with an explosion, followed by a gun battle with Afghan security forces.

The state media building is close to the governor's compound and a police station. Video footage from Jalalabad showed hundreds of Afghan security forces fanning out across the city, where shops were closed.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack. Both the Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate are active in Nangarhar, a mountainous province that borders Pakistan.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, three civilians were killed in separate bomb blasts, according to officials.

Qais Qadri, spokesman for the governor of eastern Kapisa province, said two civilians were killed and two others were wounded in a bomb blast late Tuesday in the Nijrab district.

Samim Khpolwak, spokesman for the governor of the southern Kandahar province, said a civilian was killed and 10 people were wounded, including three policemen, in a double bombing in the provincial capital. No one immediately claimed either attack. The Taliban have stepped up their attacks since announcing their spring offensive last month.

Shariah court in Indonesia sentences gay couple to caning

BANDA ACEH, Indonesia (AP)—An Islamic Shariah court in Indonesia's conservative Aceh province has sentenced two gay men to public caning for the first time, further undermining the country's moderate image after a top Christian politician was imprisoned for blasphemy.

The court, whose sentencing Wednesday coincided with International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia, said the men, aged 20 and 23, would each receive 85 lashes for having sexual relations. One of the men wept as his sentence was read out and pleaded for leniency.

The chief prosecutor, Gulmaini, who goes by one name, said they will be caned next week, before the holy Muslim month of Ramadan starts about May 25.

The couple was arrested in late March after neighborhood vigilantes in the provincial capital, Banda Aceh, suspected them of being gay and broke into their rented room to catch them having sex. Cellphone video that circulated online and formed part of the evidence shows one of the men naked and visibly distressed as he apparently calls for help on his cellphone. The second man is repeatedly pushed by another man who is preventing the couple from leaving the room.

Police officer escorts two men accused of having gay sex into a holding cell to wait for the start of their trial at Shariah court in Banda Aceh, Indonesia, Wednesday, May 17, 2017. AP

The lead judge, Khairil Jamal, said the men were "legally and convincingly proven to have committed gay sex."

He said the three-judge panel decided against imposing the maximum sentence of 100 lashes because the men were polite in court, cooperated with authorities and had no previous convictions.

"As Muslims, the defendants should uphold the Shariah law that prevails in Aceh," Jamal said.

International human rights groups described the treatment of the men as abusive and humiliating and called for their immediate release.

"Every human being has a right to privacy, a right to enter consensual relations, and a right to physical protection," Amnesty International's deputy director for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, Josef Benedict, said in a statement.

Human Rights Watch said in April that public caning would constitute torture under international law.

"The prosecution is very harsh. The verdict is harsher," said Andreas Harsono, Indonesia researcher for Human Rights Watch. "It shows the increasingly conservative judiciary in Indonesia."

The U.S. State Department said that all people are equal in dignity and rights, regardless of sexual orientation.

"We encourage Indonesia and all nations to provide equal protection to all their citizens and to conform to international human rights standards. We maintain that caning, as described in our human rights report, is an extreme form of punishment," said Anna Richey-Allen, a department spokeswoman for East Asia.

Prosecutors said the men had waived their right to defense lawyers. It was not clear why, but guilty verdicts are certain in most cases that reach the Shariah court.

Aceh is the only province in Muslim-majority Indonesia allowed to practice Shariah law, which was a concession made by the national government in 2006 to end a war with separatists, but other some other areas have introduced Shariah-style bylaws.

Aceh implemented an expansion of Islamic bylaws and criminal code two years ago that extended Shariah law to the province's non-Muslims and allows up to 100 lashes for morality offenses including gay sex and sex between unmarried people.

World

Talks on airplane laptop ban end with no ban, more talks

BRUSSELS (AP)s—Talks on a proposed U.S. ban on laptops and tablets in flights from Europe ended Wednesday with no ban - and a promise of more talks and better intelligence sharing.

For days now, European Union officials have been hoping for details on the threat that prompted the proposed ban - the same details that U.S. President Donald Trump discussed with Russian diplomats at the White House last week.

The airline industry came out against the proposal in a strongly worded letter that said it would cause a severe downturn in trans-Atlantic air travel and cost travelers more than a billion dollars in lost time.

On Wednesday, in a secure room in Brussels, officials from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the European Union swapped information about threats involving air travel. An official who followed the talks said the ban was "off the table" for now. He spoke on condition of anonymity to release details of the sensitive negotiations.

AP

In this file photo dated Thursday, March 29, 2017, airport staff inform passengers at the check in area at Casablanca Mohammed V International Airport, Morocco.

They also shared details about their aviation security standards and detection capabilities, and agreed to meet again in Washington next week "to further assess shared risks and solutions for protecting airline passengers, whilst ensuring the smooth functioning of global air travel," according to a joint statement.

The White House has defended Trump's decision to share classified information involving an Islamic State group terror threat related to the use of laptops on aircraft with the Russian foreign minister and Russian ambassador.

The proposed electronics ban would create logistical chaos on the world's busiest air travel corridor - as many as 65 million people a year travel between Europe and North America on nearly 400 daily flights, many of them business travelers who rely on the devices to work during flight.

Such a ban would dwarf in size the current one, which was put in place in March and affects about 50 flights a day from 10 cities, mostly in the Middle East.

The International Air Transport Association, or IATA, which represents 265 airlines, wrote to both the EU and the U.S. State Department on Tuesday to oppose the proposed ban, which it said would deeply affect the economy and cause the equivalent of $1.1 billion in lost time to passengers.

There is also the question of the relative safety of keeping a large number of electronics with lithium batteries, which have been known to catch fire, in the cargo area. IATA proposed more in-depth preflight screening rather than forcing passengers to give up their electronics.

On Wednesday, it welcomed more discussions on how to improve security while minimizing travel inconveniences.

Nonetheless, airlines have said it is merely a matter of time before the ban is put in place. The prospect has alarmed EU officials, who want to know more about any new threats and the disruption such a move would create.

Come fly with me: Dutch king was guest pilot for 21 years

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)—Some Dutch passengers on KLM flights might have recognized the co-pilot's voice when he introduced himself on the airline's Cityhopper services.

It was not just their co-pilot telling them weather conditions and estimated time of arrival. It was their king.

King Willem-Alexander told national newspaper De Telegraaf in an interview published Wednesday that he has ended his role as a regular "guest pilot" after 21 years on KLM's fleet of Fokker 70 planes and before that on Dutch carrier Martinair. He will now retrain to fly Boeing 737s as the Fokkers are being phased out of service.

While it is no secret that Willem-Alexander is a qualified pilot who sometimes flew KLM passenger flights, it was not clear how frequently it happened. De Telegraaf said he does it twice a month. As a guest flier, the king is always co-pilot.

The 50-year-old father of three and monarch to 17 million Dutch citizens calls flying a "hobby" that lets him leave his royal duties on the ground and fully focus on something else.

"You have an aircraft, passengers and crew. You have responsibility for them," the king told De Telegraaf. "You can't take your problems from the ground into the skies. You can completely disengage and concentrate on something else. That, for me, is the most relaxing part of flying."

Willem-Alexander said he is rarely recognized by passengers, especially since security was tightened on board planes in the aftermath of the 9/11 attacks.

"Before Sept. 11, the cockpit door was open. People regularly came to have a look and thought it was nice or surprising that I was sitting there," he said, adding that very few people recognize him as he walks through Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport in KLM uniform and cap.

And even when he makes announcements to passengers, Willem-Alexander says that as a co-pilot he doesn't have to give his name. So while some people recognize his voice, it is far from all passengers.

"But most people don't listen anyway," he added.

Donald Trump Jr., Dubai business partner discuss 'new ideas'

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Donald Trump Jr. traveled to Dubai and met a billionaire business partner in the city-state, discussing "new ideas" as the Emirati's real estate firm still lists possible plans for future joint projects while Trump's father is in the White House.

The Trump Organization has said it won't make new foreign deals while Donald Trump serves as America's 45th president. That didn't affect the Trump International Golf Club in Dubai's opening in February , while a previously planned Trump-branded golf course designed by Tiger Woods is still being built nearby.

Trump Jr.

Both projects are being built by Dubai's DAMAC Properties, owned by Emirati billionaire Hussain Sajwani. His company has paid the Trump Organization's subsidiaries between $1 million to $5 million for the projects, according to a U.S. Federal Election Committee report submitted in May.

Sajwani's Instagram account posted a picture Tuesday night showing him with Trump, who now runs the Trump Organization with his brother Eric, at a table covered in a spread of Middle Eastern food and a plate of French fries.

"It was great having my dear friend and business partner Donald Trump Jr. over for lunch," a caption with the photo read. "Discussing new ideas and innovation always make our meetings even more interesting."

DAMAC did not respond to a request for comment about the meeting. However, recent regulatory filings made by the company suggest possible future plans with the Trump Organization.

DAMAC mentioned the Trump Organization in a prospectus for a sukuk, a type of Islamic bond, launched in April on the NASDAQ Dubai exchange. That filing noted DAMAC's "product expansion also includes branding arrangements with ... the Trump Organization." It also listed plans for a "luxury boutique hotel to be operated by the Trump Organization" at DAMAC Hills, a massive development of villas and apartment buildings in Dubai's desert that surrounds the newly opened Trump golf course.

New death in Venezuela puts toll at level of 2014 unrest

SAN CRISTOBAL, Venezuela (AP)—Legions of national guardsmen and military helicopters began descending on a western Venezuela state Wednesday where an outbreak of looting and political violence left at least three people dead in as many days, raising the nationwide death toll in a wave of unrest to at least 43.

Fifteen-year-old Jose Guerrero died in San Cristobal on Wednesday after going out the previous afternoon to purchase flour and being shot near a protest, authorities said. His death means the number killed in nearly two months of protests and street clashes is likely to surpass that seen in the country's last political upheaval in 2014, when 43 people died during three months of demonstrations against the socialist government.

Top military commanders announced they were sending 2,000 national guardsmen and 600 troopers from special operation forces to Tachira, a mountainous state along Venezuela's border with Colombia where Guerrero and two others have been killed during protests since Monday.

A rash of violence across Tachira this week has left dozens of businesses looted, 11 police stations set aflame and nervous residents scrambling to buy what food they can find. Public transportation was shut down Wednesday, many businesses closed and long lines snaked to the few operating ATMs.

"From this moment we are not going to permit any more violent or terroristic acts," said Jose Morantes Torres, commander of a regional defense force overseeing operations.

By late Wednesday afternoon, helicopters could be seen arriving at Tachira's military airport. Hundreds of national guardsmen in green uniforms were patrolling areas where protests have taken place, while others stood in front of grocery stores and other shops and some kept watch from armored trucks.

Focus

CHINESE spent $24B on US, other 'golden visas'

By NOMAAN MERCHANT
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING (AP)—When the sister of President Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner promoted investment in her family's new skyscraper from a Beijing hotel ballroom stage earlier this month, she was pitching a controversial American visa program that's proven irresistible to tens of thousands of Chinese.

More than 100,000 Chinese have poured at least $24 billion in the last decade into "golden visa" programs across the world that offer residence in exchange for investment, an Associated Press analysis has found. Nowhere is Chinese demand greater than in the United States, which has taken in at least $7.7 billion and issued more than 40,000 visas to Chinese investors and their families in the past decade, the AP found.

The Chinese investors flocking to these programs are people like Jenny Liu, a doctoral student in the eastern city of Nanjing, who sold her apartment two years ago and moved in with her parents. She used the money from the sale to invest $500,000 in a hotel project in the United States. If the project creates enough jobs in two years, she'll get a prized "green card" and a pathway for a less stressful education for her 9-year-old son.

"My son has a lot of homework to do every day, but I don't think he has learned a lot from school," Liu said. "I hope he can actually pick up some useful knowledge or skills rather than only learn how to pass tests."

The flood of investors reflects how China's rise has catapulted tens of millions of families into the middle class. But at the same time, it shows how these families are increasingly becoming restless as cities remain choked by smog, home prices multiply and schools impose ever-greater pressure on children. They also feel insecure about being able to protect their property and savings.

Their money goes toward government bonds, businesses, mountain ski resorts, new schools and real estate projects, including a Trump-branded tower in New Jersey built by the Kushner Companies, once run by Jared Kushner, now a White House senior adviser. But the industry is murky, loosely regulated and sometimes fraud-ridden—in the U.S., federal regulators have linked the EB-5 visa program to fraud cases involving more than $1 billion in investment in the last four years.

Despite criticism from Congress, Trump signed a spending bill that included a renewal of the program through September, although federal authorities have proposed more than doubling the minimum investment. Just one day later, Kushner's sister, Nicole Meyer, was in Beijing courting Chinese for a new project funded by EB-5. That's raised complaints about conflicts of interest and new calls to revise or even end the program.

"It is a growing industry and we do need more oversight," said Stephen Yale-Loehr, an expert on the program and a professor at Cornell Law School. "EB-5, when it is done properly, can and does benefit the economy."

The lure of a golden visa

The number of Chinese using investment migration programs worldwide tripled between 2010 and 2015, the AP found among the countries in its survey. In the last decade, Chinese have taken 75 percent of the investor visas issued by the United States, 70 percent for Portugal and 85 percent for Australia. China also remains the top recipient of investor visas in Canada, the United Kingdom, New Zealand, Spain, Hungary and Malta.

To be sure, those migrating make up only a small fraction of the around 18 million households that could be considered upper-middle-class or wealthier in China, but they echo the laments of many better-educated, urban Chinese.

"Middle-class investors' choosing to leave shows that their confidence in their future, their dreams and the regime in China is fading," said Zhang Lifan, an independent political scholar in Beijing.

China's "golden visa" investors are part of a wave characterized not by poverty, persecution or war, but by people with steady jobs and homes who are pursuing happiness that's eluded them in their homeland.

After decades of economic mismanagement and political upheaval, the ruling Communist Party reversed some of its most destructive policies and unleashed a four-decade-long economic boom in the 1970s. That growth lifted 500 million people out of poverty and vaulted generations of Chinese from peasantry into relatively well-paying manufacturing or service jobs. More than 3 million households in China now have an income of more than $34,000 a year, according to the consultancy McKinsey & Company.

Key to their spending power is China's real estate boom. Real estate prices in China's largest cities have more than tripled in the last decade, with prices in Beijing rising by an average of 25 percent a year during that time. Since late 2015 alone, Beijing's home prices have jumped 63 percent, making a 1,300 square-foot (120 square-meter) apartment worth more than $1 million.

A family that gained ownership of an ordinary apartment more than a decade ago can now sell it for the price of a "golden visa." And as their dissatisfaction with China's problems grows, more families are choosing to do so.

Like Liu, many of about a dozen investors or prospective investors interviewed by the AP say they don't want their children to struggle in China's rigid and intensely competitive education system, which emphasizes rote learning and can stifle creativity.

Cherry Deng, the mother of a 10-year-old boy in Sichuan province, invested in a port construction project in North Carolina through the U.S. EB-5 program. Deng, who used funds from her car dealership business, said she wants her son to learn from the American emphasis on self-reliance. Deng said she sees Chinese parents supporting their children even after they've graduated from college—securing for them homes, jobs and, sometimes, even spouses.

"I don't want to take care of my children forever," Deng said. "I want them to learn how to live independently and to create wealth on their own."

Urban Chinese have also been disgusted by scandals ranging from tainted baby formula to toxic running tracks, and alarmed that even the most prosperous cities are not safe from deadly factory explosions and other man-made disasters.

Despite her success running an online clothing business in the southwestern Chinese city of Chengdu, Peng Jie isn't confident in her future in China. She sees the prices of property and schools rising and the value of the yuan falling, and fears that success could be taken away.

"In China, we have family and friends, and daily life is convenient," Peng said. But, she added, "someone in the middle class can become poor in one second."

Wooing Chinese investors

China is central to the success of almost every major investment migration program in the world, so many countries are going out of their way to court Chinese investors.

Ads for investment programs pop up on Chinese cellphones and websites, full of promise and intrigue. In crowded hotel ballrooms, foreign officials with pamphlets and flashy presentations tout the same message: Start a new life in a country with better education, clean air and a stable future.

Agents selling U.S. projects to Chinese take great pains to prove their expertise on the states, the EB-5 program and perceived ties to American leaders. Some marketing materials include photos of Chinese posing with former President Barack Obama.

Now, they're competing directly against the current president's relatives.

Meyer, Kushner's sister, appeared this month at events in Beijing and Shanghai to promote One Journal Square, a New Jersey tower project planned by the Kushner family that would be partially funded through EB-5 investment. The presentation included a photo of Trump and vague promises that the project had "government support" and was "founded by celebrity developers." The company later apologized for any implication that her brother was supporting the project, and Meyer pulled out of a presentation to Chinese investors scheduled for this past weekend.

Trump's name already appears on another New Jersey residential tower, Trump Bay

See CHINESE on Page 24

AP

In this file photo taken Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, a woman wears a mask as she walks past a construction site as smog continues to choke Beijing.

CHINESE

From Page 23

Street, built with the help of EB-5 funding. And one month before the November election, an ad appeared on a Chinese website catering to foreigners seeking a "white American to join our team" for a new project: "A 200 million dollar hotel developed by The Trump Organization in Austin." A brochure posted online described Trump as the "king of real estate" and included a photo of him giving a speech.

White House press secretary Sean Spicer this month said Kushner would follow government policies on potential conflicts of interest, and that Trump and Congress would review "all the various visa programs and whether or not they are serving the purpose that they were intended to."

The AP obtained data from officials in 13 countries on how many Chinese have used their investor programs since 2007. To estimate money spent, the AP multiplied the numbers of Chinese investors in each country by the minimum investment required, making the figures an undercount.

The market leader is the United States' EB-5 program, which gives green cards to anyone who invests $500,000 in a business that creates or saves at least 10 jobs. Several others market themselves as cheaper or quicker alternatives.

Portugal has drawn at least $1.7 billion over four years from Chinese investors willing to buy property to support its faltering real estate market. Spain and Greece offer similar programs. Chinese have bought the most visas in all three countries.

Five Caribbean nations offer passports for as little as $100,000. Chinese are the top buyers in Antigua and Barbuda, according to government statistics.

Australia goes the more expensive route, requiring an investment of 5 million Australian dollars (nearly $3.7 million). Despite a price nearly eight times as high as the EB-5 program, Australia is estimated to have attracted more than $6 billion in Chinese investment in just four years.

But problems in the industry worldwide are rife.

Fraught with risk

The U.S.'s EB-5 program has been heavily criticized by government watchdogs and targeted by lawmakers of both parties in Congress, who say it promotes fraud and helps developers building mega-projects more than struggling communities. Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat who has introduced legislation to end the program, has called EB-5 a "Ponzi scheme." Her Republican counterpart, Sen. Charles Grassley of Iowa, has said EB-5 "poses significant national security risks" and "may be facilitating terrorist travel, economic espionage, money laundering and investment fraud."

AP

A Chinese man browses a leaflet as visitors seek information at the exhibitor booths in a Invest in America Summit, a day after an event promoting EB-5 investment in a Kushner Companies development held at a hotel in Beijing, Sunday, May 7, 2017.

Federal investigators said in April they found that at least three Chinese investors who obtained green cards through the program were fugitives wanted by Beijing. And the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission has opened more than a dozen civil cases since 2013 alleging fraud in projects involving around 2,000 investors and more than $1 billion in funds.

Defenders of the EB-5 program say it creates jobs and provides vital funding for projects across the United States, from massive developments in New York to hotels, restaurants and small businesses in the Midwest and on the West Coast.

"That's the program working as it should, and more often than not, it is working as it should," said Matthew Galati, a Philadelphia-based attorney who helps Chinese investors migrate to the U.S.

Canada's program drew an estimated $2.4 billion through Chinese investors over the past decade, but the national government ended it in 2014, saying that it "significantly undervalued" Canadian residency and created little economic benefit. The province of Quebec has kept in place its separate program, which has drawn at least $1.9 billion from Chinese investment.

And a former Portuguese interior minister and other senior government officials have been on trial since February for corruption, influence-peddling and misconduct in handling "golden visa" applications of investors linked to three Chinese businessmen. Hungary suspended its program selling visas for government bonds earlier this year after opposition parties and watchdogs accused it of corruption.

Ironically, calls to end investment migration programs often end up as marketing tools for the hundreds of agents selling them in China. One agent made note of proposals to change the EB-5 program by saying, "Do not hesitate, and act quickly!"

Du Juan attended a seminar in Beijing held by an investment group pitching ski resorts and other projects. She knows the potential danger of investing through the U.S. program, but she's willing to bear the risk as long as she can get her 10-year-old daughter enrolled soon in an American school.

"I don't worry about the $500,000, but I worry about the loss of time," Du said. "I am afraid that we'll be unable to get the visa when we need it."

Slowing the flow

There are signs that China is trying to slow down the migration. These investors are among the category of people China hopes will buy its domestically made rice cookers, electric cars and energy-saving light bulbs to fuel a new chapter of consumer-led growth. Research by McKinsey shows that the upper-middle class already accounts for a fifth of China's private consumption in cities.

Articles critical of investment visa programs have appeared in China's state media, often highlighting fraud cases or stories of Chinese who faced trouble after going abroad. China has also tightened controls on how much money individuals and companies can move out of the country as part of broader efforts to stop the currency from further weakening.

Banks are expected to enforce more strictly the yearly limit of $50,000 that individuals are allowed to take out of the country, and will be required to report any transfers above $10,000. Still, Chinese have typically worked around such controls by slowly moving money or using friends and family members to help them amass an overseas account.

If China, which doesn't recognize dual nationality, can't keep entrepreneurs and middle-class families from leaving, it risks endangering its economic future. That includes people like Joey, a 30-year-old Beijing resident who works for a major Chinese state-owned conglomerate. He shared his story on the condition that his last name not be used because he hadn't told his employer of his plans.

Joey and his fiancee have a two-bedroom apartment and plan to get married and have a child in China. Despite their seemingly bright future, they want to raise that child elsewhere. His friends and relatives helped him move enough money offshore to invest in the American EB-5 program.

Joey says he's seen parents and children struggling to breathe outside in China's smoggy air, and signs that China's economy is headed for deeper trouble.

"In China, you have to plan ahead," Joey said. "You cannot just leave today, whenever you want. You never know what happens next."

Associated Press researchers Liu Zheng and Yu Bing in Beijing and Fu Ting in Shanghai, and reporters Pablo Gorondi in Budapest, Hungary, and Barry Hatton in Lisbon, Portugal, and data journalist Larry Fenn in New York contributed to this report.

BY THE NUMBERS

From the United States and Canada to small islands in Europe and the Caribbean, Chinese are spending billions on new passports and visas to move their families away from their homeland.

China's middle and upper classes are demanding better schools, cleaner air and a more secure life for their children. And as China gets wealthier, millions of families have the means to purchase a new life elsewhere.

Their demand has transformed a once obscure market for immigration by investment. To study China's impact, the Associated Press collected statistics from 13 countries that offer citizenship or permanent residency for a price.

Here's a look at AP's analysis of the market, by the numbers.

China's favorite programs

Consulting firms in China's biggest cities hawk investor visa programs in weekly sessions at hotels and on social media. The market leader is the United States, as urban Chinese are widely familiar with American schools and culture.

Here are the five countries in the AP's analysis with the most visas issued to Chinese investors and their families in the last decade:

■ 43,448: the United States' investment visa program, known as EB-5.

■ 35,278: Canada's investment bond programs, including a program offered by the province of Quebec.

■ 7,875: Portugal's "golden visa" program for real estate investors.

■ 6,405: Hungary's residence bond program, recently suspended by the government.

■ 4,640: Australia's program for high-dollar "significant investors."

What they buy

Depending on the country, Chinese investors looking for a second home can join business projects, invest in bonds or make an outright payment to the government. Currency conversions are as of May 11.

—$250,000: the minimum price of citizenship in Antigua & Barbuda for an investor who donates to the island government's development fund and pays a $50,000 government fee.

■ $380,000 (350,000 euro): the minimum value of real estate investors must purchase in Portugal's "golden visa" program.

■ $500,000: the minimum business investment in the United States' EB-5 program, with a "green card" given to investors whose money creates or saves 10 jobs.

■ $584,000 (800,000 Canadian dollars): the minimum amount of interest-free investment to be made or financed for residence in the Canadian province of Quebec. (Canada closed a similar national program in 2014.)

■ $3.7 million (5 million Australian dollars): the required investment in Australia›s Significant Investor Visa program in a mix of developing businesses and funds as defined by the government. Australia›s program is by far the most expensive in the AP survey.

What they spent

To understand how China has changed the global investor migration market, the AP estimated how much Chinese families have invested at a minimum in foreign countries for a visa or passport. The AP multiplied the number of investors, excluding family members, by the minimum investment level for each year, in each program for the last decade. In some cases, the AP estimated the number of investors with the help of government data or experts on investment migration.

The figures below are an undercount because some investors put in more than what's required. Investment amounts for each year were converted to U.S. dollars based on the average exchange rate that year. The figures have not been adjusted for inflation.

■ $7.7 billion: estimated minimum investment in the United States through the EB-5 program.

■ $6 billion: estimated minimum investment in Australia through its Significant Investor Visa program.

■ $4.3 billion: estimated minimum investment in Canada, including Quebec, through its immigrant investor programs.

■ $1.96 billion: estimated minimum investment in the United Kingdom through its Tier 1 investor program.

■ $1.71 billion: estimated minimum investment in New Zealand through its investor and entrepreneur programs. ***(AP)***

Science & Technology

Google unveils latest tech tricks as computers get smarter

MOUNTAIN VIEW, Calif. (AP)—Google's computer programs are gaining a better understanding of the world, and now it wants them to handle more of the decision-making for the billions of people who use its services.

CEO Sundar Pichai and other top executives brought Google's audacious ambition into sharper focus Wednesday at an annual conference attended by more than 7,000 developers who design apps to work with its wide array of digital services.

Among other things, Google unveiled new ways for its massive network of computers to identify images, as well as recommend, share, and organize photos. It also is launching an attempt to make its voice-controlled digital assistant more proactive and visual while expanding its audience to Apple's iPhone, where it will try to outwit an older peer, Siri.

The push marks another step toward infusing nearly all of Google's products with some semblance of artificial intelligence—the concept of writing software that enables computers to gradually learn to think more like humans.

Google punctuated the theme near the end of the conference's keynote address by projecting the phrase, "Computing that works like we do."

Pichai has made AI the foundation of his strategy since becoming Google's CEO in late 2015, emphasizing that technology is rapidly evolving from a "mobile-first" world, where smartphones steer the services that companies are building, to an "AI-first" world, where the computers supplement the users' brains.

AI unnerves many people because it conjures images of computers eventually becoming smarter than humans and eventually running the world. That may sound like science fiction, but the threat is real enough to prompt warnings from respected technology leaders and scientists, including Tesla Motors CEO Elon Musk and Stephen Hawking.

Anil Sabharwal talks about updates to Google Photos during the keynote address of the Google I/O conference, Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in Mountain View, Calif. AP

But Pichai and Google cofounder Larry Page, now CEO of Google corporate parent Alphabet Inc., see it differently. They believe computers can take over more of the tedious, grunt work so humans have more time to think about deeper things and enjoy their lives with friends and family.

Other big tech companies, including Amazon.com, Microsoft, Apple and Facebook, also are making AI a top priority as they work on similar services to help users stay informed and manage their lives.

Google believes it can lead the way in AI largely because it has built a gigantic network of data centers with billions of computers scattered around the world. This while people using its dominant internet search engine and leading email service have been feeding the machines valuable pieces of personal information for nearly 20 years.

Now, Google is drawing upon that treasure trove to teach new tricks to its digital assistant, which debuted last year on its Pixel phone and an internet-connected speaker called Home that is trying to mount a challenge to Amazon's Echo. Google Assistant is on more than 100 million devices after being on the market for slightly more than six months and now is trying to invade new territory with a free app released Wednesday that works on the operating system powering Apple's iPhone. Previously, the assistant worked only on Google's Android software.

Google's assistant will be at a disadvantage on the iPhone, though, because Siri—a concierge that Apple introduced in 2011—is built into that device.

A new service called Google Lens will give Assistant a new power. Lens uses AI to identify images viewed through a phone. For instance, point the phone at a flower and Assistant will call upon Lens to identify the type of flower. Or point the camera at the exterior of a restaurant and it will pull up reviews of the place.

Pinterest has a similar tool. Also called Lens, it lets people point their cameras at real-world items and find out where to buy them, or find similar things online.

TECH Q&A

A drastic fix for a software conflict

By STEVE ALEXANDER
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I'm unable to access the iTunes or iCloud programs on my Dell Windows 7 PC. Apple representatives who tried to help me said their efforts were blocked by a program on my PC called Revo Uninstaller, which I haven't been able to remove. What can I do?—Pat Becker, Tucson, Ariz.

A: To make sure your problem isn't caused by malicious software, run the free Malwarebytes security program (tinyurl.com/jsdacdk). For best results, opt out of trying the premium version (see tinyurl.com/lpq5fmd).

If that doesn't solve the problem, you have two options for getting rid of the Revo Uninstaller.

Option 1: Run the Windows 7 System Restore program. System Restore will return your PC settings to an earlier date, and at the same time will uninstall any program you added to your PC after that date. To use System Restore, see tinyurl.com/kxanto5, then scroll down to "How To Use System Restore in Windows 7 or Windows Vista."

Note: In order for System Restore to eliminate Revo from your PC, you must pick a restore point whose calendar date precedes the installation of the Revo program. If you don't have any restore points that go back that far, or if System Restore wasn't turned on, try option two.

Option 2: Back up all your personal PC data to an external hard drive or flash drive. Then use the Windows 7 installation disk that came with your PC to reinstall Windows on your PC.

If you don't have such a disk, you can download a new copy of Windows 7 from Microsoft _ provided that you have the "product key" (also called a "product activation key") for your current copy of Windows. To find the installation key, see tinyurl.com/jutdkdf. To download a new copy of Windows 7, see tinyurl.com/q7p2g7e.

Reinstalling Windows 7 will wipe out everything on your PC's hard disk, including Revo Uninstaller. However, it will require you to reinstall any programs you added to the PC after you bought it. You will also need to reinstall the software for any accessories, such as printers. In addition, you will need to reset your internet connection and transfer your personal data back to the PC. If all that seems daunting, a repair shop can do it.

To reinstall Windows, print out the directions at tinyurl.com/lwfddje. Ignore the section on restoring the PC to its factory settings; that won't help get rid of Revo.

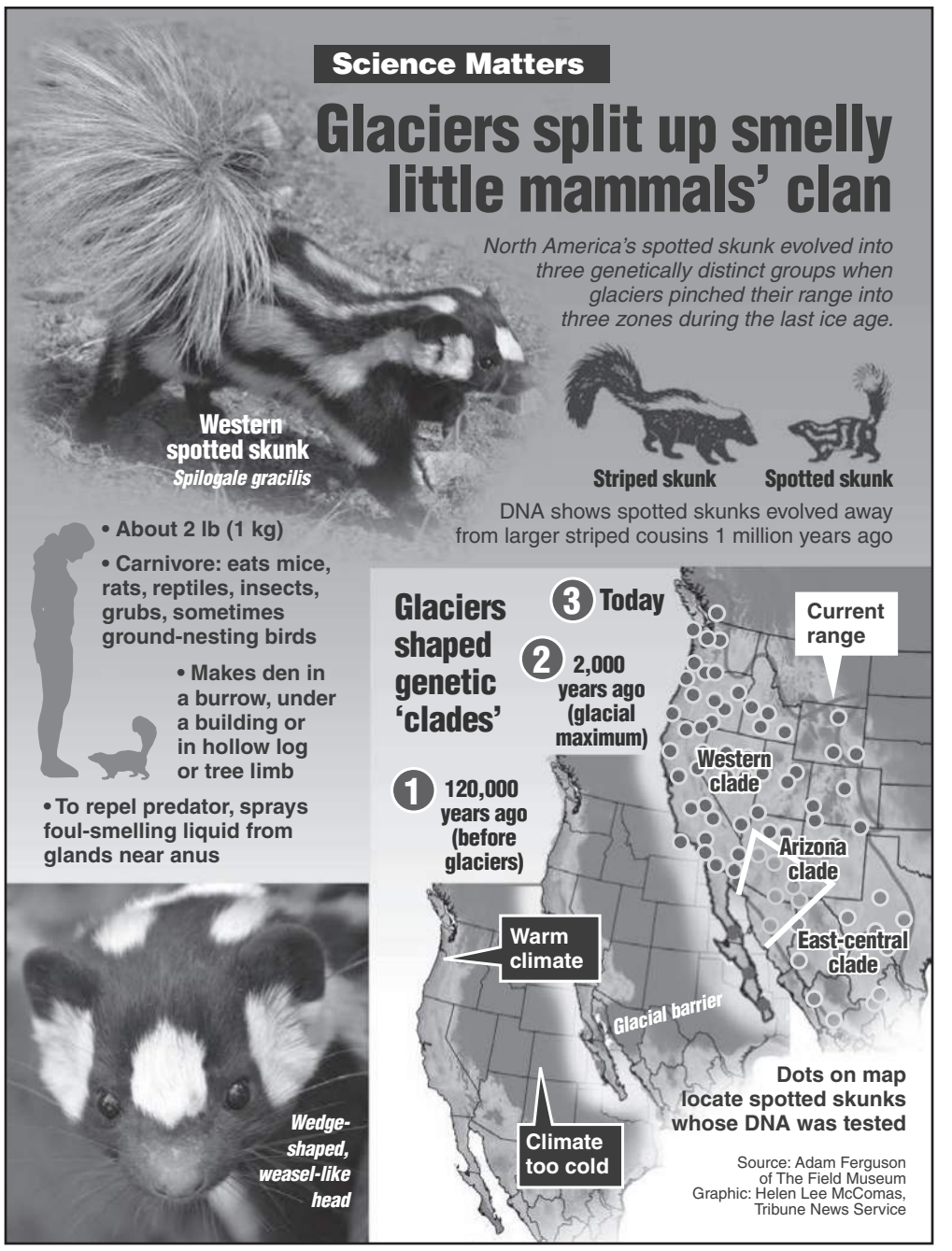
Q: I download my newspaper as an Adobe Systems .pdf file, then read it with the 2015 version of Adobe Acrobat Reader DC. Sometimes the Acrobat Reader program stops working and I have to close the program and start over. Is the software at fault, or is it a hardware problem?—Doug Gwost, Shoreview, Minn.

A: Adobe says that Acrobat Reader DC has had problems with "intermittent crashes." To get the latest fixes for the program; click "Help" and choose "Check for Updates."

Alternatively, you can download the latest version of Acrobat Reader DC at tinyurl.com/muj5b44. You can also check out the website's list of PC "system requirements" to run the program.

If the problem persists, Adobe offers a workaround that involves replacing the program's preferences folder. See tinyurl.com/m4dy4or and read "solution 2."

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers *may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.*


Science Matters
Glaciers split up smelly little mammals' clan
North America's spotted skunk evolved into three genetically distinct groups when glaciers pinched their range into three zones during the last ice age.
Western spotted skunk
Spilogale gracilis
Striped skunk
Spotted skunk
DNA shows spotted skunks evolved away from larger striped cousins 1 million years ago
• About 2 lb (1 kg)
• Carnivore: eats mice, rats, reptiles, insects, grubs, sometimes ground-nesting birds
• Makes den in a burrow, under a building or in hollow log or tree limb
• To repel predator, sprays foul-smelling liquid from glands near anus
Wedge-shaped, weasel-like head
Glaciers shaped genetic 'clades'
1 120,000 years ago (before glaciers)
2 2,000 years ago (glacial maximum)
3 Today
Current range
Western clade
Arizona clade
East-central clade
Warm climate
Glacial barrier
Climate too cold
Dots on map locate spotted skunks whose DNA was tested
Source: Adam Ferguson of The Field Museum
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Off The Wall

Drag queens, kids together for story hour

NEW YORK (AP)—It takes a certain something to be a good storyteller: enthusiasm, timing and a flair for the dramatic. Performers at a children's story hour at a New York City library have all that and then some—they're drag queens.

AP

In this Saturday, May 13, 2017 photo, Lil Miss Hot Mess reads to children during the Feminist Press' presentation of Drag Queen Story Hour at the Park Slope Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, in New York.

About once a month since last fall, the Brooklyn Public Library has been presenting Drag Queen Story Hour, where performers with names such as Lil Miss Hot Mess and Ona Louise regale an audience of young children and their parents. There's even a drag-queen version of "Wheels on the Bus" in which Lil Miss Hot Mess sings of hips that go "swish, swish, swish" and heels that go "higher, higher, higher."

"Drag queens and children don't usually get together, which I think is a shame and one of the benefits of a program like this," Lil Miss Hot Mess said while putting on an outfit that included a silver sequin dress with rainbows, blue and silver glitter eyeshadow and an enormous wig of curly blond hair. The Associated Press agreed not to use the performer's legal name because of fears of harassment.

"It's great that it teaches them self-acceptance in a very general way," she said of the program, which got its start in San Francisco.

At the most recent story hour, children ranging from infants to preschoolers heard about Penelope the hippo, the main character in "You're Wearing THAT to School?!" by Lynn Plourde, which explores ideas of fitting in versus standing out. The children got up and danced and ended the session wearing paper crowns.

Kesa Huey and Sarah Baratti were among the parents who brought their children to the event, and they were glad they did.

"I think we're just looking for exposure to positive role models in as many forms as possible," Huey said.

Baratti said she had taken her daughter to a previous drag queen story hour, and when she asked the girl if she wanted to go again, it "didn't take a lot of convincing."

Something like this program "could be a really positive model for kids," especially since kids in the preschool age range are open to the idea of dressing up and fantasy, said Christia Spears Brown, a professor of developmental psychology at the University of Kentucky.

It "ultimately provides children with a really flexible model of gender," Spears Brown said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police: Drunken driving suspect had lizard in bra

TAUNTON, Mass. (AP)—Police in Massachusetts say a bearded dragon lizard was turned over to animal control after a woman suspected of drunken driving revealed she had the animal stuffed in her bra. Taunton police said in a Facebook post that the 39-year-old woman had a blood alcohol level nearly twice the legal limit Tuesday when she drove off the road, smashing into several mailboxes. Police say, despite the fact that the air bags were deployed and all four tires were flattened, the driver asked officers to call a tow truck so she could be on her way. Police say a male passenger was also taken into custody after being tackled by an officer who saw what appeared to be a handgun in the man's waistband. It was determined to be a pellet gun.

Florida woman finds iguana in toilet bowl, calls 911

MIAMI (AP)—What did a South Florida woman do when she lifted the lid on her toilet and found an iguana inside? She closed it again and called 911. Lt. Scott Mullin of Miami-Dade Fire Rescue's Venom One unit tells the Miami Herald it's the first time he's found an iguana in a toilet. Mullin says when the call came in Tuesday night, he asked the dispatcher to make sure it was an iguana and not a snake. He says the woman, her daughter and grandchildren were waiting when he arrived at their home in West Kendall, south of Miami. Mullin says the lizard likely came up through the pipes. Mullin used gloves to lift the iguana from the bowl, put it in a box and drove it to a wildlife rescue center.

Man sues woman for $17.31 movie ticket after bad date

ROUND ROCK, Texas (AP)—A Texas man is suing a woman he went on a date with for the price of a movie ticket after he says she texted through the film and left him at the theater. Brandon Vezmar filed the claim for $17.31 last week. The 37-year-old tells the Austin American-Statesman he met the woman online and they went to see "Guardians of the Galaxy, Vol. 2" on May 6. He says the 35-year-old woman refused to stop texting. Vezmar says he suggested she step outside to text. The woman then left the theater and never returned. The woman tells the newspaper Vezmar asked her later for the cost of the ticket, but she refused because "he took me out on a date."

Brazilian judge demands to be called 'Your Honor' at bakery

SAO PAULO (AP)—Brazil's top judicial oversight board has decided it won't sanction a judge who allegedly got angry at a bakery cafe waiter and demanded the man address him as "Your Honor." Witnesses say Judge Dilermando Motta Pereira was upset because the waiter did not put ice in his cup. The judge allegedly yelled at the employee, grabbed his shoulder and ordered the waiter to call him "Your Honor." Chief Justice Carmen Lucia said in late Tuesday's decision that Pereira should have been more careful, but did not deserve to be punished for the 2014 incident in the northeastern city of Natal. Pereira acknowledged the actions, but said he was mistreated by the waiter and complained other clients interfered.

Life & Style

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Forbes: Jay Z and Beyonce worth a combined $1.16 billion

NEW YORK (AP)—Jay Z and Beyonce are a billion-dollar couple according to one estimate. Forbes puts the combined wealth of the married superstars at $1.16 billion. The magazine estimates Jay Z's fortune at $810 million. It says Beyonce has amassed $350 million. Forbes says most of Jay Z's money is involved in Roc Nation and his other companies. Both the rapper and the singer also have a significant stake in the Tidal streaming music service. Jay Z signed a 10-year pact with Live Nation to partner on concert events worth $200 million. The couple has a 5-year-old daughter, Blue Ivy. Beyonce is pregnant with twins.

Bill O'Reilly gets weekly spot on Glenn Beck's radio show

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill O'Reilly is taking up his former Fox News colleague Glenn Beck's offer to work together again. Variety reports O'Reilly announced on his "No Spin News" podcast that he will have a weekly spot on Beck's radio show. He calls Beck "a good friend" and says the two have a "lively" rapport. O'Reilly was ousted by Fox News Channel last month amid accusations of sexual harassment that O'Reilly has denied. Beck left the network in 2011 following an advertiser boycott of his program. Last week, Beck told O'Reilly during an interview on his radio show that he would like him to work for Beck's outlet, The Blaze.

Chelsea Manning to participate in documentary about her

CANNES, France (AP)—Chelsea Manning, the transgender soldier convicted of giving classified government materials to WikiLeaks, will participate in a documentary about her. Pulse Films announced the film at the Cannes Film Festival on Wednesday, shortly before Manning was to be released from Fort Leavenworth in Kansas. The film, to be directed by British filmmaker Tim Travers Hawkins and executive produced by "Citizenfour" filmmaker Laura Poitras, is titled "XY Chelsea." Hawkins will be filming Manning on Wednesday when she is released from prison. Manning, who was known as Bradley Manning before transitioning, was convicted in 2013 of 20 counts, including six Espionage Act violations. President Barack Obama granted her clemency in January before departing office. Producers said Manning granted filmmakers "unprecedented access." Hawkins has followed her legal team since 2014.

Miss America Organization tabs new president, CFO

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)—The Miss America Organization on Wednesday promoted two executives to top roles in the group that stages the iconic pageant each year in Atlantic City. Josh Randle was named president and Eli Popicg (POP'-itch) was named chief financial officer of the Miss America Organization. Randle joined Miss America in 2015 as chief operating officer and served as a volunteer trustee of The Miss America Foundation since 2013. At 29, he is the youngest president in the group's history. Before that, he was the inaugural national executive director of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Foundation in the United States, one of the British Royal Family's principal charities. Popicg was Miss America's finance director since 2015. Before that, he was deputy controller and deputy to the CFO at BGR Group in Washington.

Wallenda wife to dangle by her teeth over Niagara Falls

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y. (AP)—The trapeze-artist wife of daredevil Nik Wallenda is planning her own stunt high above Niagara Falls. Five years after Nik Wallenda walked over the falls on a high wire, aerialist Erendira Vasquez Wallenda plans to dangle by her teeth from a helicopter as it flies over Niagara Falls. The Niagara County Legislature late Tuesday approved a resolution setting aside $35,000 for the act. It's planned for June 15, the fifth anniversary of Nik Wallenda's televised 1,800-foot tightrope walk from the New York side of the falls into Canada. Five members of the famed Wallenda circus troupe fell from a high-wire in Sarasota, Florida, in February while practicing an eight-person pyramid. Nik Wallenda avoided falling by grabbing a wire. Everyone survived.

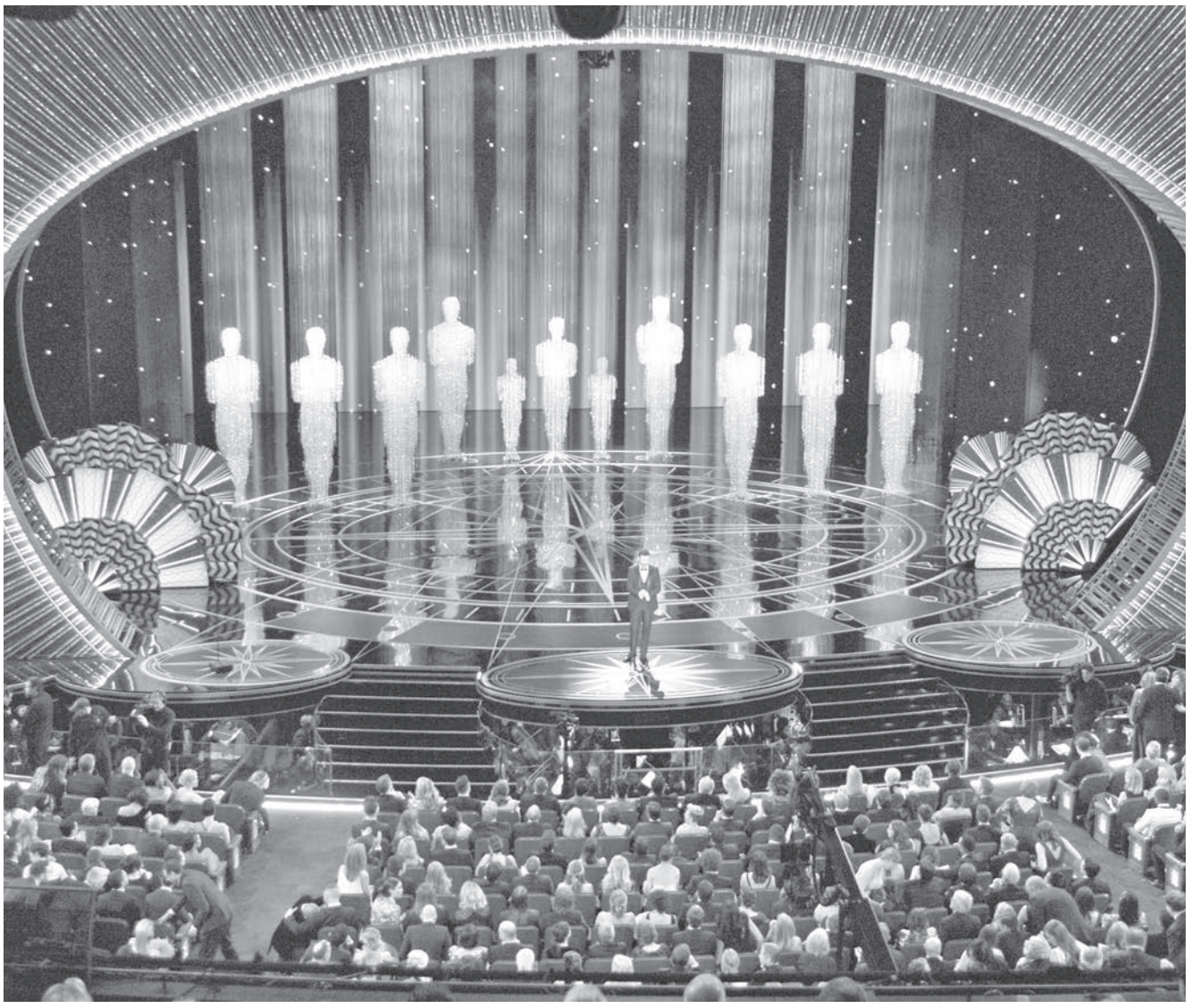
Harry Styles steps in to host Corden's 'Late Late Show'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former One Direction singer Harry Styles has taken over James Corden's "Late Late Show" for a night. Styles was introduced as Corden on Tuesday night's edition of the CBS talk show. He slipped into the role by telling a few jokes during an opening monologue , poking fun at two of late night comedy›s favorite targets, President Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton. Corden returned the favor by appearing as Styles during a skit. He later resumed hosting duties. Styles is spending the week with Corden on the «Late Late Show» in order to promote his new album. He performed his new single "Carolina" on Tuesday night. He'll be taking part in Corden›s signature «Carpool Karaoke» segment Thursday.

Father of singers Nick and Aaron Carter dead

NEW YORK (AP)—Robert Carter, the father of Nick Carter of the Backstreet Boys and fellow singer Aaron Carter, died on Tuesday, the singers announced. Nick Carter said in a statement Wednesday that he was "heartbroken to share the news that our father, Robert, passed away last night." No more details about the death were available. Nick Carter, 37, also said that "while we learn more about the cause of death, and begin the grieving process, we ask that our privacy be respected at this difficult time." Aaron Carter, 29, posted a photo of his dad on Instagram on Wednesday. He also wrote that he was heartbroken, and added that "we are so hurt we lost you poppa way too soon. You were never human to me, you were always my real life super hero." Robert Carter appeared with his family on the 2006 E! reality series, "House of Carters." It lasted for one season and also included their sister Leslie Carter, who died at age 25 in 2012.

Expect envelope jokes galore from Jimmy Kimmel



AP
In this Feb. 26, 2017 file photo, host Jimmy Kimmel appears at the Oscars in Los Angeles.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—With the dust still settling from the envelope snafu at the Academy Awards, it might seem early to be talking about next year's ceremony, but producer Jennifer Todd is already thinking up ambitious plans for the sets and the clips to celebrate the 90th Oscars ceremony—and host Jimmy Kimmel's likely "field day" with jokes about the flub come showtime.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced Tuesday that Todd, her co-producer Michael De Luca and Kimmel would all be reprising their roles for the 90th Oscars on March 4, 2018. Last year Todd and De Luca were announced as producers in November and didn't get Kimmel finalized as host until December.

"There were a lot of elements that felt very quick last year, including, like, driving to Jimmy Kimmel's house and begging him to host the show," Todd told The Associated Press. "The crunch time is when the nominations come out. There's a lot that you can't do—musical numbers or whatnot—until then, but there's a good amount we can mull over the summer."

Ratings for the 89th Oscars this past February were the lowest since 2008 with 32.9 million viewers tuning in. Todd is aware and hoping that they'll be able to raise excitement for next year.

"Getting young people to watch the show is always a priority for us. We need the next generation of people to love movies and want to go to the cinema," Todd said. "The Academy Awards are sort of the best commercial for movies."

The 90th Anniversary peg could prove a draw. They'll plan to celebrate 90 years' worth of winners, pay homage to the past, and like every year, "bring out as many movie stars as we can."

"It's a big year for us," Academy President Cheryl Boone Isaacs said. "It's going to be a big celebration, and it's wonderful to have a team that's experienced, and freshly experienced, and already has some wonderful ideas."

But intrigue following the drama of the envelope mishap is likely to garner the most interest—whether or not something that unforeseen could happen live again and if the show will poke fun at itself.

This year, Faye Dunaway, reading an incorrect card given to her co-presenter Warren Beatty by a distracted PwC accountant, announced "La La Land" as the Best Picture winner. The mistake was corrected on stage, and "Moonlight" was given the award, leading first-time host Kimmel to declare, "I promise I'll never come back."

"If I hadn't produced last year's show, I would have been like, 'Oh my gosh this is incredible!' "People love that something unexpected happened and it was a surprise," Todd said.

"I felt for the people involved, and felt badly that any moment felt short shrifted. But when you look at the state of the world, you have to put it in its place. I do think humor is the best remedy for all of it. I think we're going to come up with amazing things about how to expect the unexpected at the Oscars," she said. "I think Jimmy is going to have a field day with it."

Music cut from 'La La Land' added back in for concert tour

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"La La Land" is getting its overture back.

An instrumental overture that was cut from the hit musical film starring Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone will be added back in for a touring concert show that kicks off this month at the Hollywood Bowl.

Composer Justin Hurwitz said it's one of two new pieces of music that fans of the film will get to hear in "La La Land In Concert: A Live-to-Film Celebration." The overture was written into writer-director Damien Chazelle's initial script and was the first piece of music Hurwitz created for the movie. It was cut after test screenings so the film could open with the jubilant "Another Day of Sun," featuring dancers atop cars stuck on a Los Angeles freeway.

Hurwitz said early versions of the film included the overture and then "Another Day of Sun," which was two big music pieces at the beginning of the movie. "We knew one of them had to go," he said.

A version that included the overture as the first number was screened for months before the filmmakers decided the elaborate dance number should open the film.

"Losing one of them was very difficult," the composer said.

Hurwitz said audiences would also hear an additional new piece of music—which joins together several key melodies—at the start of the second half of the show. Hurwitz, who won two Academy Awards for his work on the movie's music, is conducting the live shows May 26 and May 27 at the Hollywood Bowl. More than 50 performances will follow in the U.S. and internationally.

The show will include a 100-piece symphony orchestra, choir and jazz ensemble, along with the film's original vocal recordings from Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone and John Legend. The movie will play along while the musicians perform.

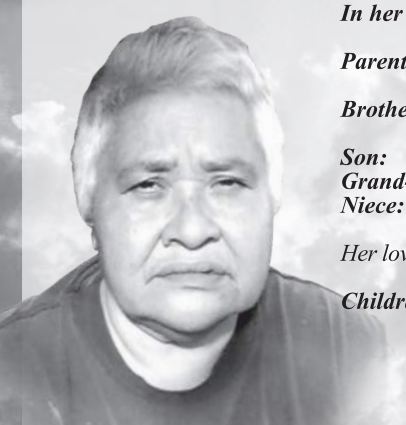
"There's a lot of melody spread across the orchestra - that's kind of the way I arrange. So to get to see all of those wind players and brass players really carry melodies and carry real musical moments of the score, it's something that I had the pleasure of seeing in the studio, and I'm excited for people to see it live," Hurwitz said.

It may not be the only live performance in "La La Land's" future. Producer Jordan Horowitz said he's hoping for a "La La Land" Broadway stage show.

"The picture was conceived as a film musical. And I think we need to figure out if there is a version of it that can live authentically as a stage musical," Horowitz said. "The songs are at this point relatively indelible. They really resonated. So one would hope that we could do that."

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Carmen Fitipol Rabauliman



Lovingly known as Mami
Born on January 31, 1951. Passed away on May 13, 2017 at the age of 66.

In her new life, she reunites with her:

Parents:	*†Marcela Taisakan Fitipol / †Simion Igisaiar Rabauliman*
Brother:	*†Juan Rabauliman / †Esperano (Arnold) Rabauliman*
Son:	*†Cyril Simeon I. Rabauliman*
Grand-Daughter:	*†Suwella Tegan Katauo Rabauliman*
Niece:	*†Chris Marie (Nenie) Amires*

Her loving memories will forever linger in the hearts of her:

Children:	***Justin Rabauliman***
	Estella R. Igisomar */ Jun (Suwella, Davin, Junella, Archie, Stella)*
	†Cyril Simeon I. Rabauliman *(Judy Ann, Yumi, Jesus, Jase)*

Brothers/Sisters/Nieces & Nephews:
Jesus*/Natividad (Jessy, Rosa, Chineng, Emma, Jeffrey)*
Maria Pura*/Chris (Norman, Justin, Clarence, Tintin*
Canice*/Amor (Janice, Ezra))*
Rosa*/Dominic (Joaquin, Kim/Virginia)*
Vicente*/Bangon*
Simeon Jimmy
Jose
Donicia
John*/Wannarat (Genny Eve)*

Daily Mass is being held at St. Jude Church, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Sunday at 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday and Saturday at San Antonio Church at 6:00 p.m.

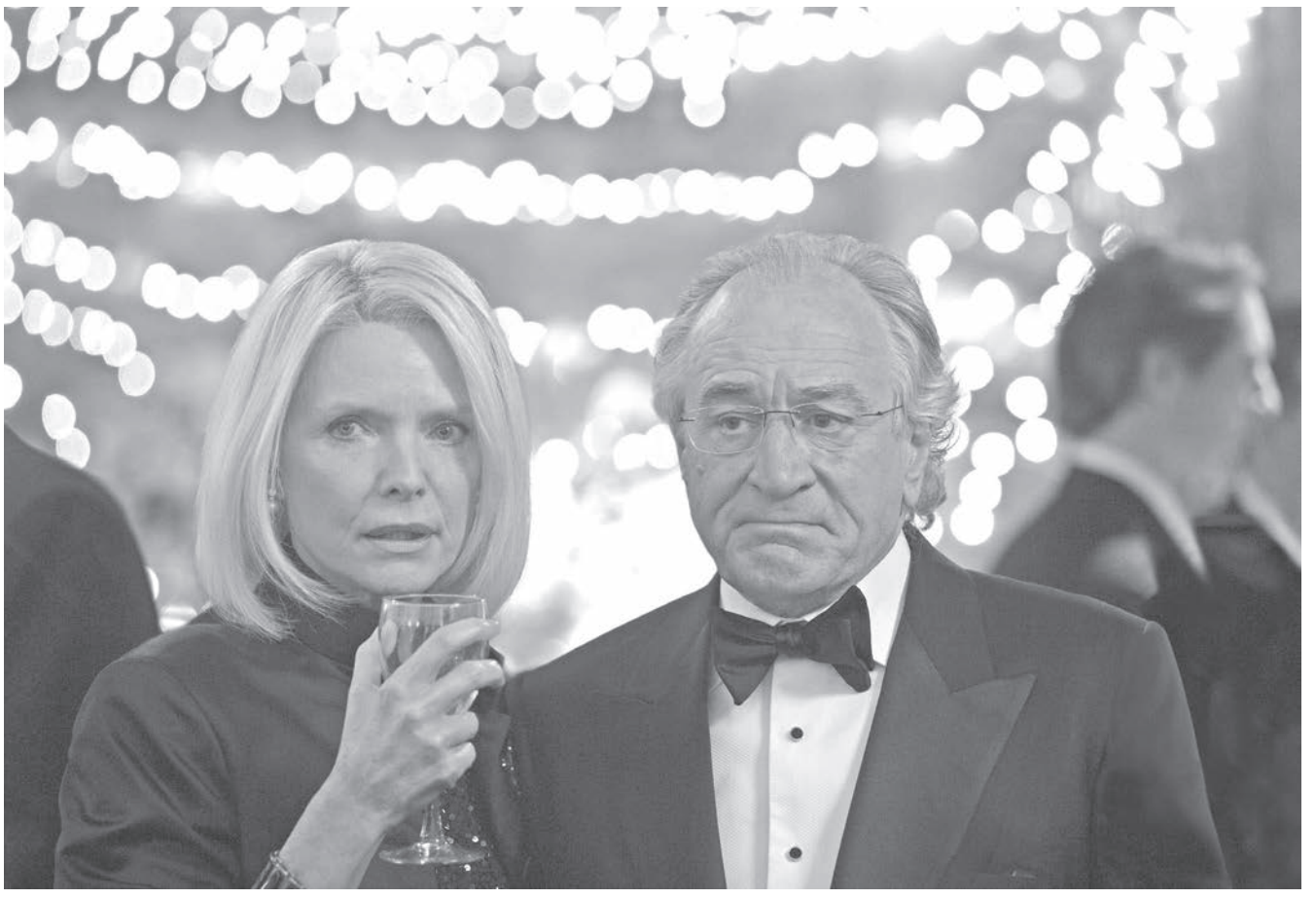
On Saturday, May 20, 2017, at 7:30 a.m. her remains will be transported from Borja Funeral Home to her residence in Koblerville for viewing and last respects.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 11:00 a.m. at St. Jude Church followed by interment at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'se and Olomwaay Reemi.

FROM THE FAMILY

Truths about Madoff and "Wizard of Lies" from its creators



AP
This image released by HBO shows Michelle Pfeiffer as Ruth Madoff, left, and Robert De Niro as Bernie Madoff in "The Wizard of Lies," premiering Saturday at 8 p.m. ET on HBO.

NEW YORK (AP)—For the second time in little more than a year, a TV film probes Bernie Madoff, the fraudster-financier who in 2008 made explosive news with his arrest for perpetrating a Ponzi scheme that ruined thousands of his clients at a cost of $60 billion or more.

In February 2016, an ABC docudrama starred Richard Dreyfuss as Madoff and Blythe Danner as his ever-trusting, unwitting wife Ruth.

Now HBO is presenting "The Wizard of Lies," which, in marked contrast, takes a retrospective tack framed by its subject as he serves his 150-year prison sentence. Premiering Saturday at 8 p.m. EDT, this is a complex and penetrating examination of the havoc wrought not just throughout the financial world but also within Madoff's close-knit family. Robert De Niro is Madoff and Michelle Pfeiffer is Ruth. Barry Levinson, an Oscar winner for his 1988 drama, "Rain Man," directs.

Last week, this threesome gathered to talk about their film:

LEVINSON: "We weren't just dealing with headlines. You have to get into the flesh-and-blood characters, not just the financial aspects. You got to get as human as you can: What is the dynamic between Bernie and Ruth, and between the two sons," both of whom worked for Madoff and were suspected of having known what he was up to, and one of whom, Mark, would commit suicide on the two-year anniversary of his father's stunning downfall. "It is a true tragedy that in the end destroyed the entire family."

PFEIFFER: "A lot of people had their minds made up about Ruth and the boys, and believe they were involved and guilty. I think we do a successful job in dispelling that."

LEVINSON: "We talked to the FBI. In their two years of investigation, they couldn't link them to anything."

PFEIFFER: "And they tried!"

What were the challenges in making "The Wizard of Lies"?

DE NIRO: "There were no real challenges, other than: There's ALWAYS a challenge!"

LEVINSON: "It was easy. It fell into place. Right away, it was: 'Let's try a little thing here and a little thing there.' But we never struggled to make a scene work."

PFEIFFER: "It was the first time I had ever played a real person, one who was still alive, and I felt that burden! I know a lot of women of Ruth's generation who were focused on the family, the children and left all of the rest to their husbands. That was MY mother, who never had a job but instilled in me the importance of having a career. I felt like I was responsible for Ruth's truth being represented. I used to have a lot of conversations: 'Barrrrrrrry! We have to be SURE!'"

And did she feel sure?

PFEIFFER: "I do, now that I've seen the finished product."

She conceded that ABC's rival Madoff film, with its significant jump on the HBO project, "gave me pause, learning that was going on."

LEVINSON: "I was sent the script for the other one, but I was doing something else and I didn't read it. Then this ('The Wizard of Lies') script came up. I never did see the other film, because once we decided to do this one, I didn't want to risk being influenced."

DE NIRO: "I liked the project. We had experts to speak to, sources of information, so that was all good. I had certain physical similarities with him. So I thought, 'This would be fun to do.' And that was it."

An actor legendary for how he transforms himself into each character he plays, De Niro had no ready answer for how he grasped Madoff.

DE NIRO: "Everybody has their reasons for what they do, and he had his. In acting school, you never 'comment' on the character you play. You never think, 'He's a bad person, so therefore I'm going to do things to make him look bad.' That's Rule No. 1. You find a way for the character to justify his own actions. He gave off a mysterious, phantom-type thing, from what we could surmise. I could see how that could help explain how he attracted people. But who is he REALLY?" Citing his Oscar-winning performance as a real-life boxing champ in the 1980 blockbuster "Raging Bull," De Niro cracked, "I don't KNOW who Jake LaMotta is, really!"

LEVINSON: "Madoff was the opposite of the con man as we usually see it. He's the opposite of the fast-talking, slick kind of guy. He would say, 'I don't want your money. I already have enough. I don't know if I can fit you in.' But we always live with con artists. They keep coming."

At that, De Niro flashed a knowing grin.

"We got the biggest con artist in the world for president," he said.

CBS pairs 'Big Bang' & spin-off; O'Brien re-ups with TBS

NEW YORK (AP)—"Young Sheldon" and his grown-up version on "The Big Bang Theory" will be paired on CBS' Thursday night schedule this fall.

The "Big Bang" spinoff, centered on star Jim Parsons' character as a precocious 9-year-old Texas high school student, is one of eight new series coming to CBS in the 2017-18 season, the network announced Wednesday.

"It's not 'Muppet Babies,'" said CBS programming executive Kelly Kahl, but a gentle comedy in the mold of "Wonder Years" and "Doogie Howser, M.D."

Parsons and the rest of the "Big Bang Theory" cast are signed through the next two seasons, a recently wrapped negotiation that included CBS Corp. chief executive Leslie Moonves meeting with the actors of TV's No. 1 comedy.

"I hope it goes beyond that," Moonves told reporters Wednesday, but, he added, "I can't make any promises."

Other freshman CBS shows set for a fall debut include sitcoms "9JKL," described as having an "Everybody Loves Raymond" vibe with the story of an actor (Mark Feuerstein) living near his parents and brother, and "Me, Myself & I," which looks at a man at different stages of his life and stars Bobby Moynihan and John Larroquette.

CBS' new fall dramas are "Seal Team," with David Boreanaz ("Bones") as a member of an elite Navy SEAL team; "Wisdom of the Crowd," with Jeremy Piven as a tech guru who creates a crowdsourcing app to solve crimes after his daughter is killed, and "S.W.A.T.," inspired by the TV series and movie and starring Shemar Moore.

The midseason slate includes "Instinct," with Alan Cumming as a former CIA operative who's pulled back into his old line of work, and the comedy "By the Book," about a man (Jay R. Ferguson) who challenges himself to live strictly in accordance with the Bible. It's based on A.J. Jacobs' best-selling book "The Year of Living Biblically."

Returning shows that will be held for later in the season include "Amazing Race," ''Code Black," ''Man with a Plan" and "Undercover Boss."

But CBS viewers have seen the last of canceled series "Two Broke Girls" and "The Odd Couple."

Stephen Colbert also took a victory lap at Wednesday's presentation. He's ridden relentless attacks on President Donald Trump to the top of the late-night ratings.

Colbert noted the rush of late-breaking political news happening this week at the time his show tapes.

"In the hour I'm on the air I can sound as out of touch about what's going on in the White House as Sean Spicer," Colbert joked.

Moonves offered his thoughts on competitors' plans unveiled earlier in the week to advertisers. He called ABC's plan to revive "Roseanne" for an eight-episode run a "stunt," then added diplomatically, "it's a good stunt. People will tune in for it."

Asked about ABC's decision to reboot "American Idol" next year after Fox dropped it in 2016, Moonves said CBS was offered the same chance but decided the show was so costly it would need an improbably big audience to break even.

In other TV news announced Wednesday, Turner said TBS has closed a new deal with Conan O'Brien that extends through 2022.

Will Smith, Pedro Almodovar open testy Cannes Film Festival

CANNES, France (AP)—The 70th Cannes Film Festival opened Wednesday under the lights of Cote D'Azur sunshine and high-wattage stars such as Will Smith and Marion Cotillard. But a brewing storm over Netflix's place at the world's most prestigious film festival clouded the event as Cannes rolled out the red carpet.

Optimism is high at this year's Cannes, which features a lineup widely considered to be well-stocked with heavyweight filmmakers, including Todd Haynes ("Wonderstruck"), Sofia Coppola ("The Beguiled"), Michael Haneke ("Happy End") and Lynne Ramsay ("You Were Never Really Here"). Rancor and controversy nonetheless dogged the festival's preamble, as well as its opening day.

During the opening ceremony Wednesday, Iranian director Asghar Farhadi helped set a welcoming tone for the festival, calling it a "place where cultures speak to one another." Farhadi's presence in Cannes sharply contrasted with February's Academy Awards ceremony, which the filmmaker (whose "The Salesman" won best foreign language film) boycotted to protest President Donald Trump's proposed travel ban on visitors from several predominantly Muslim nations.

Farhadi collected his Oscar statuette Wednesday in France, via producer Alexandre Mallet-Guy.

But while Cannes maintained its status as an international melting pot, definitions of what qualifies as cinema continued to stir debate. For the first time, Cannes selected two Netflix releases—Bong Joon-ho's "Okja" and Noah Baumbach's "The Meyerowitz Stories"—for its Palme d'Or competition.

French theaters, which have strict rules regarding streaming service films, rebelled at the thought of a movie that won't play on the big screen winning the Palme d'Or—the biggest award in film next to an Oscar, and to some, even more important. The festival relented and next year won't accept streaming-only films in the competition.

Earlier Wednesday, Pedro Almodovar, who's presiding over this year's competition jury, read a lengthy statement in which he said, "I personally cannot conceive of not only the Palme d'Or, but any other prize, being given to a film and then being unable to see this film on a large screen."

Musical of 'King Kong' to roar on Broadway next year

NEW YORK (AP)—A musical version of "King Kong" is hoping to make Broadway go bananas.

Officials at Global Creatures, the Australian company behind the hit arena show "Walking With Dinosaurs," said Wednesday their version of the classic ape story will land at the Broadway Theatre in the fall of 2018. Exact dates and cast will be announced later.

This "King Kong" is written by Jack Thorne, who received the 2017 Olivier Award for Best Play for "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child." The score is composed by Grammy nominee Marius de Vries, whose credits include the films "La La Land" and "Moulin Rouge," with songs by Eddie Perfect.

The show will be directed and choreographed by Drew McOnie.

Producers, who gained the cooperation of the estate of "Kong" creator Merian C. Cooper, say they haven't used recent "Kong" films as a reference, preferring instead to return to the Depression-era story that first appeared as a novella.

The show has gone through many changes since it had a workshop in 2010 with a 23-foot mechanical Kong. Back then, Daniel Kramer was originally announced as the director and Craig Lucas was hired to write the story. Following a run in Melbourne, Australia, the show had planned to open on Broadway in 2014 but delayed to "implement creative changes."

AP

This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows a scene from, "Kong: Skull Island."

Jhumpa Lahiri wins Malamud Award for short-story excellence

NEW YORK (AP)—Two short fiction collections by Jhumpa Lahiri have convinced prize judges that she's a worthy recipient of the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in the Short Story.

Lahiri will receive $5,000 and will read at a December ceremony in Washington, D.C.

The award selection committee on Wednesday praised her for "deep introspection" and "meticulous attention" to language. It cited her books "Unaccustomed Earth" and "The Interpreter of Maladies," a debut book of stories for which she won the Pulitzer Prize in 2000.

She also has written the novels "The Lowland" and "The Namesake."

The Malamud prize is named for late author Bernard Malamud. Previous winners include Saul Bellow, Alice Munro and George Saunders.

'Bridget Jones' author wins comic fiction prize, and a pig

LONDON (AP)—Helen Fielding's latest book about the misadventures of indomitable singleton Bridget Jones won the Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for comic fiction Thursday, gaining the writer rewards that include champagne and a pig.

"Bridget Jones's Baby: The Diaries" was declared winner of the prize named in honor of novelist P.G. Wodehouse.

The book sees Bridget uncertain which of her rival beaus—stalwart Mark Darcy or fickle Daniel Cleaver—is the father of her child.

It was released to accompany the movie of the same name.

Fielding will receive a Gloucester Old Spot pig, a jeroboam of champagne and a set of Wodehouse novels at the May 27 Hay Festival in Wales.

The author said she is "completely overjoyed to win the pig."

Previous winners include Ian McEwan and the late Terry Pratchett.

AP

In this Sept. 5, 2016, file photo, screenwriter Helen Fielding poses for photographers upon arrival at the World premiere of the film "Bridget Jones's Baby" in London.

Reluctant grandparents veto couple's plan to start a family

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for almost five years, and my husband and I recently decided to try to have a baby. I am really excited about the possibility of being a mom. My problem is, my parents and his parents don't want to be grandparents.

I will be 30 this year, and they keep telling me I should wait until I'm 40 to have kids. I have endometriosis, and I know if I wait too long it will be even harder to get pregnant.

On top of all the pressure our families are putting me under, I just found out my sister has been married almost a year and hasn't told anyone. I don't want to disappoint our families or force something on them they are not ready for. I'm not sure what to do now. I want my husband and me to be happy. Any advice would be appreciated.

STRESSED OUT IN OHIO

DEAR STRESSED: I know you want to be a good daughter, but you are allowing your parents (and in-laws) to weigh in on a decision that should be yours and your husband's alone. Your reason for not wanting to postpone motherhood makes sense.

Understand that not everyone wants to be a grandparent and be glad you're finding out upfront that the parents will not be baby-sitting. Many disappointed readers have written me after the fact to express their dismay when they realized it. Take from this the lesson that you must live your own life.

And, by the way, so should your sister. If there are consequences from her elopement, she should experience them. But under no circumstances should you allow yourself to be dragged into her drama.

DEAR ABBY: I have a wonderful husband I love deeply and can't imagine my life without. We have a beautiful marriage. We never fight or really even argue.

We have been together for 11 years and only during the last couple of years has he started doing something that troubles me. In the afternoon or evening, if I need to go to the store—or anywhere for that matter—he gets upset and gives me the silent treatment and doesn't want me to go.

I trust him and let him do whatever he wants. I have never given him a reason to not trust me, so why does it make him so angry if I need to run to the store? I feel I deserve the same respect and trust that I show him. How do I make him see how much it hurts me for him to act like this?

FEELING MISTRUSTED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

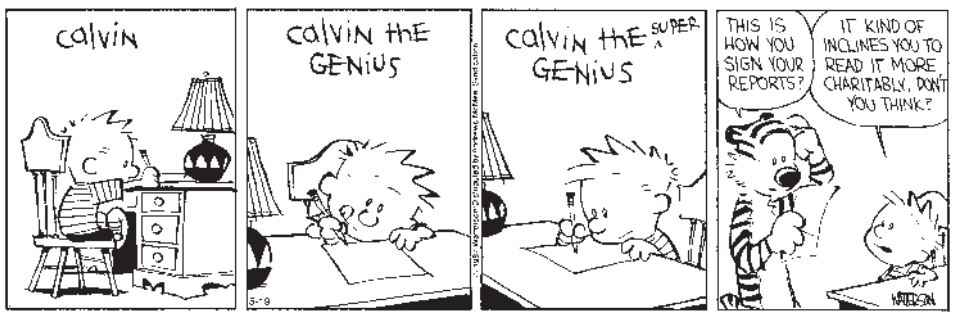
DEAR FEELING MISTRUSTED: What you are describing is a red flag that if ignored could ruin your beautiful marriage. Your husband's insecurity and need to control you may stem from the fact that he has been hiding something from you. Tell him that you love him, but for the sake of your marriage, the two of you should go to couples counseling.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

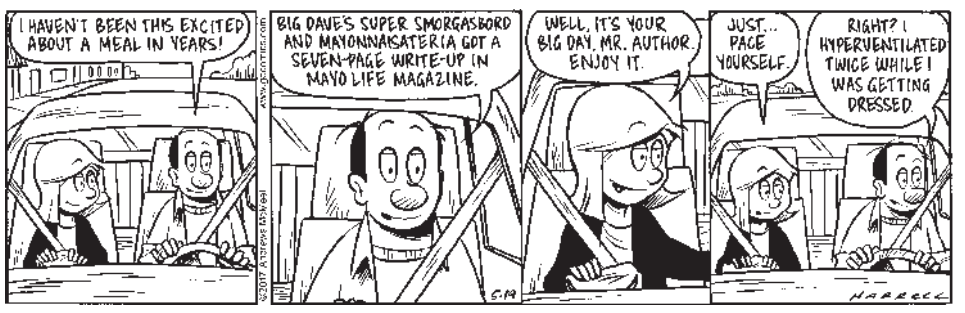

calvin
calvin the GENIUS
calvin the SUPER GENIUS
THIS IS HOW YOU SIGN YOUR REPORTS?
IT KIND OF INCLINES YOU TO READ IT MORE CHARITABLY, DON'T YOU THINK?
WATTERSON

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

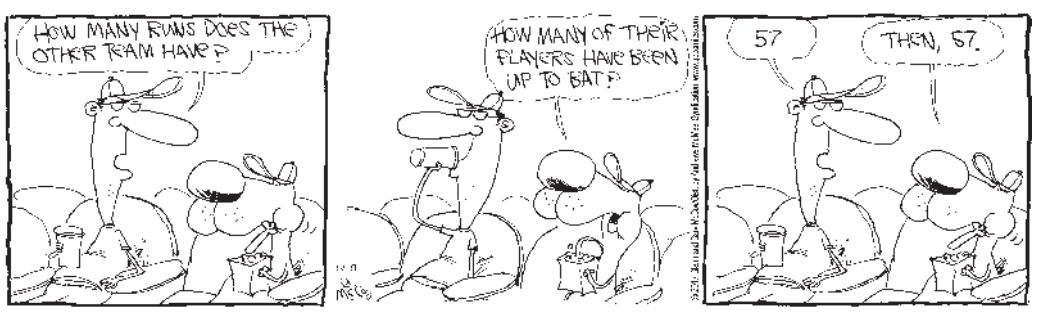
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I HAVEN'T BEEN THIS EXCITED ABOUT A MEAL IN YEARS!
BIG DAVE'S SUPER SMORGASBORD AND MAYONNAISATERIA GOT A SEVEN-PAGE WRITE-UP IN MAYO LIFE MAGAZINE.
WELL, IT'S YOUR BIG DAY, MR. AUTHOR. ENJOY IT.
JUST... PACE YOURSELF.
RIGHT? I HYPERVENTILATED TWICE WHILE I WAS GETTING DRESSED.
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

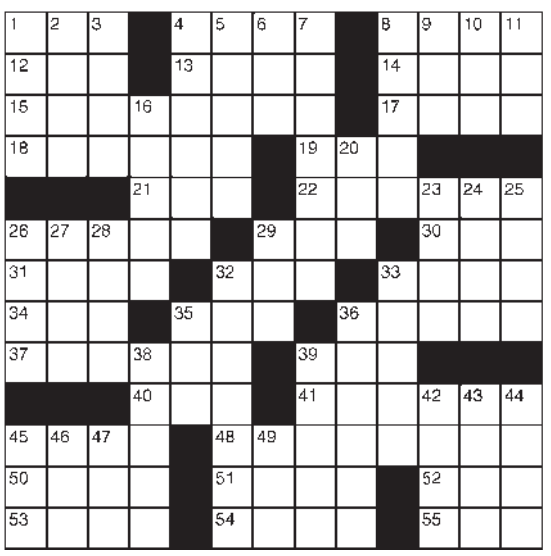
ACROSS
1 Tax pro
4 Padlock fastener
8 Muffin choice
12 Calendar abbr.
13 A Great Lake
14 Hum-dinger
15 Unwilling to budge
17 One
18 Elevator alterna-tive
19 Needle-fish
21 Observe
22 Still in the womb
26 Former quarter-back Tim
29 Humorist
30 Mauna —
31 Press
32 Newsman Rather
33 Applaud
34 Shade tree
35 Not 'neath
36 Andean beast
37 Given a second chance
39 — chi
40 Dhabi preceder
41 Middle Eastern dip made from chickpeas
45 Own (up)
48 Michigan city
50 Oxen's burden
51 Art Deco master
52 By way of
53 Egyptian deity
54 Navy com-mando
55 Sixth sense

DOWN
1 Mama — Elliot
2 Golf stroke
3 Oaxaca water
4 Semitic language
5 Got up
6 Knightly address
7 Bird in a "tuxedo"
8 Book jacket write-up
9 Scamper
10 Foreman foe
11 Fanatic
16 Plains grazers
20 Busy insect
23 Tex. neighbor
24 500 sheets
25 Wine valley
26 Level
27 Perry's creator
28 Broadway flop
29 Kids' card game
32 Strips
33 Scale
35 Sphere
36 Hardy compan-ion?
38 Caravan stops
39 "Is — fact?"
42 Relocate
43 "Topaz" author
44 Crisp cookie
45 Memo letters
46 Dawn goddess
47 Enjoy Vail
49 Before

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	E	A	P		F	A	L	K		C	O	D	
U	C	L	A		U	P		N		A	B	A	
C	O	I	N	C	S	O	L	O		S		N	
S	I	A	T	F	S			W	A	S	T	F	
			R	E		J	A	N	E	T			
E	G	G	Y		L	O	L		R	O	P	E	
R	O	I			C	K	S		V	A	L		
S	C	H	I		R	E	O		H	E	L	M	
		T	A	S	E	R		Y	E				
G	U	S	T	O			P	E	C	A	N	S	
A	S	H		G	A	Z	A	S	T	R		P	
L	E	O		G	R	A	B		I	N	T	O	
T	S	P		Y	M	C	A		C	O	S	T	

Yesterday's answer 5-19



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Dario Franchitti, 44; Polly Walker, 51; Grace Jones, 69; Pete Townshend, 72.

Happy Birthday: Get in touch with your feelings and question what's truly important to you. Taking part in events that will make you feel good about who you are and what you have to offer will encourage you to make lifestyle changes that will lead to greater happiness. Seize any opportunity that allows you to use your skills to make a difference. Your numbers are 3, 12, 24, 28, 33, 36, 45.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* An important partnership will take on more meaning. Talk openly about how you see things unfolding and what you would like to accomplish. The plan you put in place now will give your relationship more depth and meaning. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't hold back if you have an idea that can make a difference. If you share, do so on an open stage for all to hear. Confiding in one person will lead to disappointment in the way the information you share is received. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Easy does it when dealing with anyone who can mess with your reputation, position or future goals. Don't divulge secret information that may put you in a compromising position. Keep interaction with others playful. Romance is encouraged. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You'll see things differently today. Revisit some of your old ideas and you will find a new way to turn a dream into a reality. A little charm will help you get others interested in what you are doing. Travel is encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make change count. If you don't like an offer, counter with whatever it will take to make it doable. Working together to build a brighter future with your family, lover or your colleagues will make a difference. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Spending time with family or friends will bring out the best in you. A unique idea will give you the confidence to branch out and do something different. Don't let anyone interfere with your plans. Ignore unfair criticism. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* A closer look at a money concern you have or a joint venture you are considering will lead to disappointment. Put business aside and concentrate on the adjustments you want to make that will change the future of a partnership. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Enjoy the people you share space with. Laying down some ground rules should help everyone involved reach his or her goals. Show your offbeat attitude by offering unique alternatives and see what happens. Unity should be the ultimate goal. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Don't let anyone use emotional manipulation on you. Anger will surface if you have not been upfront or if you are dealing with someone who has been withholding information. Get everything out in the open so you can move forward freely. ✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Anger is not the answer when dealing with a peer. Be realistic and honest in the way you deal with someone who may be trying to confuse you by using emotional tactics. When it comes to how you earn your living, don't take a risk. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Helping others may not always be appreciated, but today it will make you feel good to know that you were there for someone in need. A helping hand will not be forgotten and the rewards will be surprisingly unique and unexpected. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Share your feelings with someone you trust to tell you the truth and to help you see past and present situations clearly. Recognizing what's held you back will be the passageway to a brighter future. New beginnings are within your reach. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are giving, loyal and emotional. You are secretive and shy.

Eugenia's websites -- eugenialast.com for Ask Eugenia, daily timing and compatibility services, and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1		9				5	
9		3	2			1		8
			7		8	4		6
				4				
8		5	3		2			
3		8			4	9		5
	2				7		1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 5/19

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

3	7	5	1	8	4	6	2	9
9	8	6	3	2	5	4	1	7
1	2	4	9	7	6	8	3	5
5	6	1	2	3	9	7	4	8
7	3	8	5	4	1	9	6	2
2	4	9	8	6	7	3	5	1
6	5	7	4	1	8	2	9	3
8	1	3	6	9	2	5	7	4
4	9	2	7	5	3	1	8	6

Difficulty Level ★★★ 5/19

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

KEEPSAKES TO DISPLAY Solution: 4 letters

M	S	Y	S	B	U	R	E	H	C	A	N	D	L	E
I	E	H	T	R	I	N	K	E	T	S	C	U	E	R
N	M	M	P	L	P	L	A	T	E	S	O	S	G	O
I	S	I	O	A	E	J	U	N	K	T	R	T	A	T
A	G	L	R	R	R	V	S	O	H	U	N	I	T	S
T	N	A	L	R	A	G	O	P	O	F	E	C	N	U
U	I	I	Y	E	O	B	O	N	O	F	R	O	I	O
R	T	C	K	K	H	R	I	T	Y	R	E	I	V	I
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LeBron, Love help Cavs rout Celtics in Game 1

BOSTON (AP)—So much for the Cavaliers being rusty.

LeBron James embarrassed every defender Boston threw at him and Cleveland picked up where it left off following a long layoff, rolling to a 117-104 victory Wednesday night in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

James had 38 points, nine rebounds and seven assists.

Kevin Love added a playoff career-high 32 points and had 12 rebounds to help the Cavaliers improve to 9-0 in the first three rounds of the playoffs. They opened 10-0 last season en route to their first NBA title.

"It was our two bigs that set the tone—Kev and Double-T (Tristan Thompson), they were phenomenal," James said. "I saw it in Kev this morning. I knew what type of game he was going to have. So he came through for us."

But there's no denying it has started with James, who has scored at least 35 points in five straight games.

Cavaliers coach Tyronn Lue said James' efficiency continues to make things easier for everyone on both ends.

"He's playing at a high level. And that's the reason why we're riding him so much," Lue said. "When LeBron's playing at that level other guys just have to be solid and we have a good chance to win."

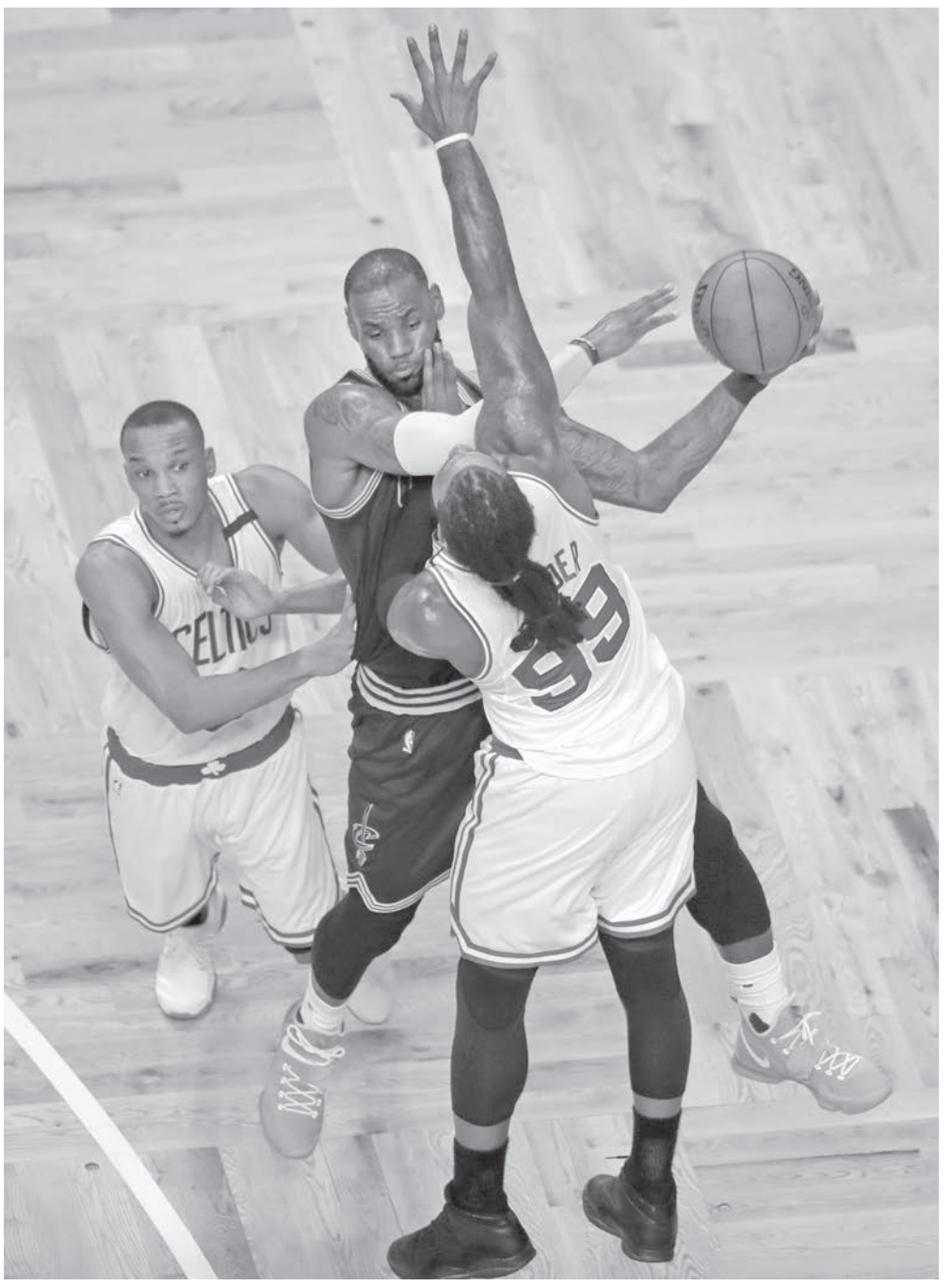
Game 2 is Friday night in Boston.

Coming off a 10-day break, James and Cavaliers raced to an early lead were never threatened.

"You can't dig yourself in a big hole like that against them," Boston coach Brad Stevens said.

James scored at will in the first half and the Cavs built a 26-point lead. Love opened up the floor for James, burying outside jumpers and forcing Boston to leave defenders one-on-one with James.

Avery Bradley and Jae Crowder led the Celtics with 21 points each. Isaiah Thomas had 17 points. Coming off a Game 7 victory over Washington on Monday night, Boston missed 11 of its first 14 shots.



AP

Cleveland Cavaliers forward LeBron James, center, drives against Boston Celtics guard Avery Bradley, left, and forward Jae Crowder (99) during the second quarter of Game 1 of the NBA basketball Eastern Conference finals, Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in Boston.

"They were the better team tonight. The hit us first. They were more physical," Thomas said. "We can't let that happen again."

Love averaged a quiet 13.8 points in the first two rounds, then broke out against a Boston team that knocked him out of the 2015 playoffs when he became tangled with Kelly Olynyk and dislocated his shoulder.

The shoulder was working just fine Wednesday, and he scored in the paint and from the outside.

"We wanted to come in and set the tone and dictate the game. We felt like we did a good job doing that," Love said. "It wasn't just me. Everybody was moving the ball, passing the ball well."

Things got a little testy in the third quarter when Boston's Marcus Smart and Cleveland's Thompson got nose-to-nose and had to be separated by referees. Some jawing continued briefly before James stepped in to pull Thompson away.

Smart and Thompson were called for a double foul on the play, but got tangled again a few minutes later. This time, Smart fell to the floor during that exchange, drawing a foul on Thompson.

The Celtics found some energy after the incident, closing the third quarter on an 11-3 run to pull to 92-75.

It didn't last long, though, as the Cavs quickly got the lead back up to 20.

James picked apart every defender that the Celtics threw at him in the first half.

He backed down defenders to set up 15-foot fade away jumpers. Other times, he simply took defenders off the dribble or sliced through double-teams on the way to layups.

Boston also seemed content to make every switch created by Cleveland screens, leading to some awkward matchups for James in the first half.

The Celtics couldn't get anything working when they had the ball, held to just 35 percent from the field in the first half and 2 for 16 from beyond the arc.

Lawsuit: Baylor football players recorded gang rapes

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—A new federal lawsuit against Baylor University alleges football players routinely recorded gang rapes and staged dog fights during hazing parties in a program that fostered sexual violence.

A former Baylor volleyball player, identified as Jane Doe in the lawsuit, alleges she was raped by four or more players after being taken from a party where she may have been drugged in 2012. Her lawsuit, filed Tuesday, alleges the players later burglarized her apartment and harassed her and her family until she left school the next year.

The woman said she told her mother, who gave an assistant football coach a list of players' names, but never heard back. The woman said she later told her head coach, who brought the matter to football coach Art Briles and athletic director Ian McCaw.

Her account lines up with previous legal filings by Baylor's Board of Regents that allege Briles, when showed a list of names of players allegedly involved in the woman's case, replied: "Those are some bad dudes. Why was she around those guys?" and said the woman should go to the police.

The woman said she didn't tell police about the sex assaults because she believed police would protect the football players, her lawyer told The Associated Press on Wednesday. She told police about football players breaking into her apartment - and police responded by getting her items back, without filing charges, according to the lawsuit.

"This case was always going to be about what Baylor knew, who knew what, and at what time," he lawyer, Muhammad Aziz, said.

More than a dozen women have now sued Baylor, alleging officials mishandled or ignored sex assault allegations for years. The school is also facing several federal civil rights investigations and a state criminal investigation.

When asked to comment on the latest lawsuit Wednesday, Baylor officials didn't address the specific allegations. But the school released a statement saying officials tried for months to reach a settlement with the woman.

They also noted recent efforts to improve campus response to assault allegations.

Warriors, Spurs will try to use break to rest and heal again

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Still unbeaten, the Golden State Warriors have a few days to heal up again. Gregg Popovich's time will be spent working to get his San Antonio Spurs to wake up, before it's too late.

And determine whether injured superstar Kawhi Leonard might be healthy enough to return from an ankle injury, too.

Sure, the Warriors just pulled off a 36-point thrashing of the Spurs two days after squeaking out a 113-111 victory in Game 1 of the Western Conference finals - their second-largest postseason win behind a game from 1948 when the Philadelphia Warriors won by 39 at St. Louis.

Draymond Green, for one, doesn't believe the Warriors will get anything easy when they arrive in San Antonio for Saturday's Game 3.

"They're going to play as hard as they can until it's over. So, we know we're not taking their heart," he said after Tuesday's 136-100 rout. "At the end, all we did was what we were supposed to do, we took care of home court. Now the real challenge is going on the road and trying to get some wins."

Starting center Zaza Pachulia was scheduled for an MRI exam Wednesday on his bruised right heel after an X-ray was negative. Key reserve and 2015 NBA Finals MVP Andre Iguodala's status was unclear after he missed Game 2 with soreness in his left knee.

"The schedule comes in and helps us out," guard Shaun Livingston said. "We miss him out there, but he'll get healthy and in the meantime it's up to the rest of us to stay ready."

They certainly did Tuesday.

Stephen Curry, Kevin Durant and Golden State's starters got plenty of rest in the fourth quarter on a night the bench delivered a season-best 63 points.

Popovich was left perplexed and downright disgusted that his team got dominated in such embarrassing fashion without Leonard, who re-injured his tender left ankle in Game 1 after stepping on Pachulia's foot.

"Tonight, it's not what I expected. I'm disappointed," Popovich said. "The only way I can process this is I think it's not about O's and X's or rebounds or turnovers or anything like that. I think we've maybe felt it too much, Kawhi being gone, in the sense that I don't think—as I watched—I don't think they believed.

"And you have to believe. I don't think as a group they really did, which means probably a little bit feeling sorry for themselves psychologically, subconsciously, whatever psycho-babble word you want to use."

Popovich had no guess about Leonard's status for Game 3, saying it would likely be decided as late as Friday or Saturday.

San Antonio isn't ready to let this best-of-seven series get away as it shifts home.

"It's tough, but it's a long series," guard Patty Mills said. "Two games, now we're going back home so there are still a lot of reasons to believe. We're just going to keep pounding on that. There's nothing else to do."

The Warriors should get another nice boost from coach Steve Kerr, who is well enough that he plans to travel with the team to San Antonio on Thursday. Golden State has planned a day off Wednesday, then will practice in the Bay Area on Thursday before flying to Texas.

Kershaw earns 20th career win against rival Giants

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Clayton Kershaw took a share of the major league lead with his seventh win and earned career victory No. 20 against the rival Giants, helping the Los Angeles Dodgers avoid a sweep by beating San Francisco 6-1 on Wednesday.

Kershaw (7-2) struck out five in seven shutout innings and retired the first 10 batters he faced before Justin Ruggiano's fourth-inning single. The left-hander moved into a tie for most wins with Houston's Dallas Keuchel.

Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run double in the first and Yasiel Puig singled in a pair of runs in the sixth as the Dodgers jumped on Johnny Cueto (4-3), who lost for the first time at home this season.

Kershaw allowed three hits and didn't walk a batter for the fourth time in 2017 as the Dodgers snapped their three-game skid and ended the Giants' season-best five-game winning streak.

AP

Clayton Kershaw pitches for the Los Angeles Dodgers during the third inning of their game against the San Francisco Giants, Wednesday, May 17, 2017, in San Francisco.

Astros 3, Marlins 0

In Miami, Lance McCullers paid tribute to the late Jose Fernandez and pitched like him, allowing no earned runs for the third start in a row, and Houston completed a three-game sweep.

McCullers (4-1) wore cleats with Fernandez's initials and uniform number. Their friendship began when they were high school pitchers in the Tampa area, before Fernandez became the Marlins' ace and then died in a boating accident last September.

Diamondbacks 5, Mets 4, 11 innings

In Phoenix, Chris Herrmann homered off Rafael Montero leading off the 11th inning, sending New York to its season-high seventh straight loss.

Montero (0-3) relieved to start the 11th, and Herrmann worked the count full, fouled off a pitch and connected on a belt-high fastball for his first game-ending home run in the major leagues.

Rays 7, Indians 4

In Cleveland, Corey Dickerson hit a three-run shot—his third homer in two days—and Alex Cobb controlled Cleveland over seven innings as Tampa Bay completed its most successful road trip in a year.

Dickerson connected in the second inning off Josh Tomlin (2-5) and Logan Morrison hit a solo shot in the third for Tampa Bay.

Pirates 6, Nationals 1

In Pittsburgh, Gerrit Cole shut down the best offense in the majors, holding Washington to three hits in seven innings to win for the first time in a month.

Cole (2-4) struck out three, walked two and received an overdue dose of support when Josh Bell smacked a three-run homer in the sixth off Jacob Turner (2-2). Andrew McCutchen went 2 for 4 with two RBI and stole two bases for Pittsburgh.

Tigers 5, Orioles 4

In Detroit, Tyler Collins snapped an 0-for-30 skid in style, hitting two home runs for Detroit in a victory over Baltimore.

Hitless since May 1, Collins connected for a solo homer in the second inning and a three-run shot in the fifth, giving Detroit's offense a boost while Miguel Cabrera sat out with a sore left side. Michael Fulmer (5-1) wasn't at his best, allowing three earned runs and 10 hits in seven innings.

Yankees 11, Royals 7

In Kansas City, Aaron Hicks hit a three-run homer to cap a five-run fourth inning, and New York piled up 16 hits against Kansas City.

Michael Pineda (4-2) allowed three runs and six hits over six-plus innings. The big right-hander was shaky throughout but good enough to win for only the second time in 16 road starts.

Cubs 7, Reds 5

In Chicago, Anthony Rizzo and Kyle Schwarber drove in two runs apiece, and Chicago handed sloppy Cincinnati its season-high fifth straight loss.

Kyle Hendricks (3-2) pitched six effective innings and drove in a run as the Cubs improved to 22-5 in their last 27 games against the Reds.

Braves 8, Blue Jays 4

In Atlanta, Kurt Suzuki hit a three-run homer to cap a six-run first inning, and Atlanta held off Toronto in a testy game after Freddie Freeman left with an injury.

Freeman was struck on the left wrist by a pitch in the fifth inning. The umpires initially ruled that Aaron Loup's pitch did not hit Freeman. But with the Atlanta star in obvious pain, the Braves challenged and the call was reversed after a video review.

Rangers 9, Phillies 3

In Arlington, Andrew Cashner finally won in his home state of Texas, pitching seven solid innings to help the Rangers match the longest winning streak in the majors this year at eight games with a victory over Philadelphia.

The right-hander from the Houston area also got his first win with the Rangers, who scored all nine of their runs in the first five innings after getting just six in the first six starts by Cashner (1-3) when the stocky 30-year-old was in the game.

Red Sox 5, Cardinals 4, 13 innings

In St. Louis, pinch-hitter Chris Young singled home the tie-breaking run in the 13th inning and Boston rallied past St. Louis to sweep their two-game interleague series.

Jackie Bradley Jr. hit a two-run homer in the seventh off starter Mike Leake to begin Boston's comeback from a four-run deficit.

Brewers 3, Padres 1

In San Diego, Jett Bandy singled in the go-ahead run with one out in the ninth inning and Milwaukee beat San Diego to take over first place in the NL Central.

The Brewers, who have won five of six, had only two hits going into the ninth before getting four straight with one out against reliever Brandon Maurer (0-3). Travis Shaw, who missed the previous two games with a swollen right index finger, started the rally with a double.

Mariners 4, Athletics 0

In Seattle, Christian Bergman pitched two-hit ball into the eighth inning for the best start of his career, Jean Segura extended his hitting streak to 16 games with a two-run single and Seattle blanked Oakland.

Bergman (1-1) held the Athletics hitless until the fifth in his first win since May 5, 2016, with Colorado against San Francisco.

Angels 12, White Sox 8

In Anaheim, Mike Trout homered for the fifth time in six games, Cameron Maybin had three more hits and the Los Angeles Angels completed a three-game sweep of the Chicago White Sox.

Trout's 13th homer of the season, a three-run shot, keyed a four-run sixth inning for the Angels.

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Gisele Bundchen: Brady had a concussion last year

BOSTON (AP)—Tom Brady played through a concussion last year on his way to a fifth Super Bowl title, according to his wife, supermodel Gisele Bundchen. The injury, which was not reported by the team, left her worried about how long he should continue to play football.

Asked if she wanted the New England Patriots quarterback to retire, Bundchen expressed concern "as a wife" in an interview on "CBS This Morning" that aired Wednesday.

"He had a concussion last year. He has concussions pretty much every ..." she said, before cutting herself off. "I mean, we don't talk about it. But he does have concussions. I don't really think it's a healthy thing for anybody to go through."

Brady sat out the first four games of the season as punishment for his role in the "Deflategate" scandal and missed practice late in the season for leg, thigh and ankle injuries. But he was not listed on the league-required injury reports for a concussion or head injury at any point during either the 2016 calendar year or the 2016 season.

AP

In this May 1, 2017, file photo, Gisele Bundchen, left, and Tom Brady attend The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Costume Institute benefit gala celebrating the opening of the Rei Kawakubo/Comme des Garçons: Art of the In-Between exhibition in New York. Bundchen told "CBS This Morning" in an interview that aired May 17, 2017, that Brady suffered a concussion last year.

The NFL requires "significant or noteworthy" injuries to be reported, regardless of whether a player is expected to miss playing time, and says honest reporting of injuries "affects the integrity of the game."

The Patriots and Brady's agent declined to respond to Bundchen's comments on Wednesday.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy said league officials reviewed all reports from independent neurotrauma consultants and athletic trainers who worked at Brady's games during the 2016 season.

"There are no records that indicate that Mr. Brady suffered a head injury or concussion, or exhibited or complained of concussion symptoms," McCarthy said. "Today we have been in contact with the NFLPA and will work together to gather more information from the club's medical staff and Mr. Brady."

The league is especially—though belatedly—sensitive to concussions, which have been linked to a brain disease that leaves former players forgetful, violent or suicidal. The NFL has agreed to pay $1 billion to retired players who accused the league of concealing the link between football and brain damage.

USOC paid its way back into bidding game; LA could benefit

DENVER (AP)—Tucked into the more than $257 million the U.S. Olympic Committee spent in 2016 was a $10 million payment to the International Olympic Committee designed, in part, to give the United States a better chance of hosting an Olympics someday—possibly in Los Angeles in 2024.

That $10 million payment is for "International Games Cost Sharing"—essentially, administrative costs for the Rio de Janeiro Games— and was part of a complex negotiation from 2012 in which the USOC gave up millions to get back into the bidding game after years of embarrassing rejections.

The USOC also paid $5 million in 2014 to offset expenses at the Sochi Games. The overall tab will rise to $20 million per Olympic cycle starting in 2020.

"We hope this has removed a road block from a successful bid for the United States," USOC chairman Larry Probst said, after agreeing to the deal five years ago.

Los Angeles and Paris are the bidders for the 2024 Olympics, with a winner to be determined in September.

The USOC released its 2016 tax forms this week, and the $10 million payment represented about 3.9 percent of the federation's overall expenses. The USOC brought in more than $336 million—a typical surplus for an Olympic yea— nearly $173 million of which came from broadcast rights and $121 million of which came from sponsorship deals, some of which came from a revenue-sharing agreement with the IOC.

The revenue-sharing deal hung over previous U.S. bids like a black cloud—an unfair bargain in the mind of many IOC members, who used it to justify votes against the United States in its humiliating defeats in the bidding for 2012 and 2016.

But the USOC brings the biggest, most successful team to the Olympics, along with NBC and its TV deal—more than $12 billion for Olympics from 2014 through 2032—and there are many in the United States who believe the USOC was every bit entitled to special treatment.

This quote, in one of former chairman Peter Ueberroth's farewell speeches in 2008, was widely cited as undermining the Chicago bid for the 2016 Olympics:

"Who pays the bill for the world Olympic movement?" Ueberroth said. "Make no mistake about it. ... U.S. corporations have paid 60 percent of all the money, period. Be sure you all understand that. The rest of the world pays 40 percent. It's pretty simple math."

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RBI single. Earlier at the top of the second, the Bears also got two runs for a 3-2 advantage and after going scoreless in the next two innings, the defending champions added four for more cushion. The Bears went on to hit the board in the last three innings, going for the kill in the ninth with their five runs behind the two-RBI double of Henry Lizama and Kiku Lizama's two-RBI single. A.J. Lizama gave the Bears their fifth run in the penultimate inning after he stole home.

A.J. Lizama was only 2-for-5 at bat, but scored four RBIs and three runs in their semis-clinching win. Kiku Lizama hit 4-for-6 and added three runs, while Fred Songao went 3-for-4 and made two runs.

Meanwhile, the Falcons forced a rubbermatch against the Titanium for the fourth and last semis ticket after dominating the D-9ers last Wednesday, 14-4.

Going into the final game of the regular season, the Falcons and Titanium held identical 6-7 records and were put in a must-win situation to keep their playoffs hopes alive.

In the end, the Falcons survived, thanks to a good start. The Falcons scored in the first four innings of the important match, while the D-9ers were held to two runs, allowing the former to control the game and take the win after only eight innings via 10-run mercy rule.

Ian Norita went 2-for-3 for the Falcons in the first four innings and recorded two runs and two RBIs. A.J. Evangelista was only 1-for-3 in from the first to fourth, but contributed two runs, while Francisco Lifoifoi, J.J. Lifoifoi, and Henry Iguel chipped in one run apiece as the Falcons posted a 7-2 advantage at the halfway mark of the game.

Francisco Lieto pitched in no relief for the Falcons and allowed only two hits in the first four innings, while yielding one run to the D-9ers. Overall, he gave up only six hits and two earned runs to help the Falcons remain in contention for the last playoff berth.

The Falcons and Titanium will fight for the final semis ticket tonight with the winner challenging the pennant champion and unbeaten GSM (14-0) in a best-of-three series. The BSI Aces and the Bears will collide in the other Final Four showdown.

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softball throw. The first place got 10, while 8, 6, 4, 2 were awarded to the No. 4 to 5 finishers.

In the girls U7 division, WSR also had a big lead as it earned 88 against the 40 of Saipan International School and 34 of Tinian. In the U9 age group, the Kingfishers both win convincingly in the girls and boys division. WSR's boys team tallied 98 points to top the 46 of Tinian and 26 of SIS, while in the girls field, WSR had 68 markers to edge Brilliant Star (58) and Oleai Elementary School (32).

In the middle school division, three different winners emerged with Hopwood ruling the boys U11 and girls U13, Oleai prevailing in the girls U11, and Agape Christian School winning in the boys U13.

Agape reached past the century mark in the boys U13 with its 110 points to finish ahead of Hopwood (86) and Tinian (46). In the girls U13, Hopwood's 76 bested the 50 and 40 of Dandan Middle School and Tinian, respectively. Hopwood was also the No. 1 in the boys U11 after recording 86 points against the 66 of WSR and 26 of Whispering Palms, while Oleai's 58 points in the girls U11 defeated the 44 of WSR and 38 of Tinian.

The middle school division added the 800m and 1,500m runs to its roster of events, besides the same competitions held in the elementary group.

In the high school division, which had more events (including the 3,000m, discus, shot put, and javelin), Agape won three of the four categories. The Torchbearers, who had the most qualifiers in the division, swept the boys and girls U18. In the boys U18, Agape got 142 points to down Tinian (130) and Saipan Southern High School (40), while there was a close fight in the girls field with the Torchbearers earning 104, just two points ahead of the Lady Geckos. Tinian was at far third with its 54 points.

In the boys U15, Agape had a big lead with its 159 points against the 116 and 50 of Tinian and Hopwood, respectively. SIS then foiled Agape's bid for a sweep after winning the girls U15 with the Lady Geckos registering 104 points over the latter's 34 (third place). Marianas High School came in at second with its 70 markers.

Trophies were awarded to the Top 3 schools in each age group.

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Ella of Gabon and Elena Gemovic of Serbia.

Ella and Gemovic barged into the semifinal round after easing past New Zealand's Oleksadnra Kalachiva and France's Ines Bekrar, 6-0, 6-4. Harper and Dimitrova, on the other hand, beat the Russian pair of Darya Mukhina and Daria Solovyeva in the first set, 6-3, before pulling off a tough 7-6 (3) victory in the second.

The semis games were scheduled to be played last night and results of neither match were unavailable at press time. The doubles champions of the third tournament Morocco hosted this month will receive 40 rankings points, while 30 will go to the runners-up. Lee, for making it to the semis, is already guaranteed 15 ranking points.

KAGMAN

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and Malonzo chipped in 16 and 14, respectively.

Devero had 8 points, while Malonzo knocked in two triples in the first quarter to lift Marianas Variety to a 27-11 advantage. Fitial, who had 4 points in the opening canto, added 8 in the second as they kept the big lead at the break, 52-24. Fitial and company kept going in the second half en route to a 17-point winning margin.

In other results last weekend, JSN/Cell Pro outclassed United Ballers, 102-97.

JSN/Cell Pro took the 5-point win, thanks to its free throws. All the 6 points of JSC/Cell Pro came from the foul line with Ting Alegre making three, Preston Basa adding two, and Syl Teregeyo having a split.

It was a come-from-behind victory for JSN/Cell Pro as it faced a double-digit deficit at halftime, 36-48, and was still down after the third canto, 61-68. Basa then anchored JSN/Cell Pro's rally in the fourth, as he canned four triples, while the rest of his teammates also contributed in the recovery.

NMA to bid for Micronesian Athletics Championships hosting

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Tang's Corporation workers pour rubber crumbs to the lanes of the Oleai Sports Complex track oval last Tuesday.

Northern Marianas Athletics will try to bring back the Micronesian Athletics Championships to Saipan next year.

"We will be submitting a bid to host the 2018 MAC," NMA secretary general Robin Sapong announced during the Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting early this month at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

If the CNMI gets the nod from the Oceania Athletics Association this June, it will be the first time in over a decade that MAC will be held here. The last time the Commonwealth hosted MAC was in 2005, as the succeeding competitions were incorporated in the Oceania Area Championships that were held in Fiji and Australia before OAA decided to return to the sub-regional format in 2014. When MAC reverted to its old format, Pohnpei hosted the competition in 2016 with Team Marianas collecting seven gold medals, four silvers, and three bronzes and sprinter Zarinae Sapong getting the Outstanding Female Athlete award. In the 2005 MAC, the Commonwealth gained five gold, six silver, and 13 bronze medals.

Robin Sapong said Yap and Guam are the CNMI's likely opponents in the bidding for the rights to host next year's event. The NMA official hopes the Commonwealth has the edge in the bidding contest, especially now that the resurfacing work at the Oleai Sports Complex's track and field facility is about to be completed.

Employees of Tang's Corporation has started pouring rubber crumbs to the 400-meter oval this week and is expected to complete the process early next. The surface has to be dried up and cleaned before markings are done.

NMSA executive director Tony Rogolifoi, who coordinates with Tang's Corporation in the development of the resurfacing work, added that the expert that will oversee the markings of the lanes may arrive on Saipan later this month, while he is anticipating the resurfacing work to be completed, weather permitting, before the month ends.

"We're almost there. The contractor just have to be very precise with the layout and other stuff as we need to get the track recertified that's why an expert from either New Zealand or Australia has to come here for the markings," Rogolifoi said in an interview with Saipan Tribune.

The Oleai track and field facility has to get a Level II certification from the International Association of Athletics Federations to be able to host regional tournaments.

Nakamura, Tilipao top Docomo Pacific golf tourney

Harry Nakamura and Louie Tilipao pulled off a close win in the Docomo Pacific Golf Classic 2017 held last Saturday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort.

Nakamura and Tilipao had a net 69.80, narrowly beating the pairs of Tony Satur and David Largent and Jay Santos and Atsushi Aoki, who recorded identical net scores of 70. The winning pair fired a gross 65, built around their 5-under par 31 on the front and 2-under par 34 on the back, and was the only team to post a net score of lower than 70 after deducting its -4.80 handicap.

Tilipao and Nakamura won the two-man scramble, double-peoria tournament against 40 other pairs. The duo had a double birdie on the par-5 No. 5, birdies on No. 2, 3, 4, and saved pars on No. 1, 6, 7, 8, and 9. Tilipao and Nakamura also parred the first six holes on the back nine and the No. 17, while having birdies on No. 16 and No. 18.

Meanwhile, Largent and Satur won the scorecard tie-break for second place. The pair shot 35s on both nines for a gross and net 70 as they had 0 handicap. Santos and Aoki, who combined for 12 handicap, dropped to third as they carded 41s on both nines for a gross 82.

The Top 3 finishers received cash prizes and trophies with the champion getting $750, the runners-up taking home $500, and the third placers earning $300.

This year's Docomo Pacific Golf Classic was supported by Calvo's Select Care, Bank of Guam, Mobil, Ideal Designs, Joeten Enterprise, Saipan Computer Services, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, TanHoldings, T Galleria, First Hawaiian Bank, The Guam Daily Post, Hyatt Regency Saipan, MARPAC, Pacific Trading, Co., Joeten Motors, Triple J Motors, Atkins Kroll, Coca-Cola, HermanÆs Bakery, Bridge Capital, LLC, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, MITA Travel, Serenti, Marianas Visitors Authority, Kanoa Resort, Kautz Glass, Sorensen Media Group, Pacific Islands Club, Mariana Resort, Joeten Ace Hardware, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, iHop, Club C, Century Hotel, United Airlines, Hard Rock Café, J's Restaurant, Bank of Saipan, and Blossoms Floral.

Registration for Tagaman Triathlon ongoing

The region's longest-running multisport event returns next month when the Tagaman Triathlon holds its 30th edition.

This is the third triathlon event to be held here after the successful staging of the inaugural Ironman 70.3 and 16th XTERRA Saipan last March.

Race day is on June 24 at 6:30am, starting with a 1.5-kilometer swim from the beach side at Kanoa Resort heading to the Minachom Atdao Pavilion in Susupe. Participants would then transition to the 40K bike and head toward the Banzai Cliff turnaround, back to Susupe.

The punishing race ends with a 10K run at the Beach Road pathway from the pavilion in Susupe going to Garapan (near the basketball court) and back for the finish.

Registration fees are as follow: from May 10 to June 15 $150 for solo and $290 for team, while from June 16 to 19, $180 for solo and $300 for team. Registration ends on June 20.

Prizes are $1,000 for the men's and women's division champions, and $700 and $500 each for the runners-up and third place finishers in both categories. Age group and relay winners will also receive awards.

Those who want to watch the race are advised to catch the swim leg at Kanoa Resort since majority of the bike portion will be at the northern part of the island. You can cheer the athletes as they turn around at Banzai Cliff heading to the bike-run transition at Minatchom Atdao.

Spectators are also encouraged to gather across the pavilion to cheer on the participants as they cross the finish line.

The Tagaman Triathlon began on 1988 with the help of then Marianas Visitors Authority managing director J.M. Guerrero, Kinki Nippon Tours, and the All Japan Triathlon Club. Tagaman was part of the MVA's promotional event to attract sports-minded tourists and other foreign visitors to visit the islands.

Tagaman drew its inspiration from Chief Taga, a leader of the ancient Chamorros. The legendary king was famous for his feats of strength that includes moving huge boulders carved as capstones.

It was later known to be as Taga or Latte Stones—the unique remnants of the original inhabitants of the Marianas. ***(PR)***

Kagman rallies past Swip Waters

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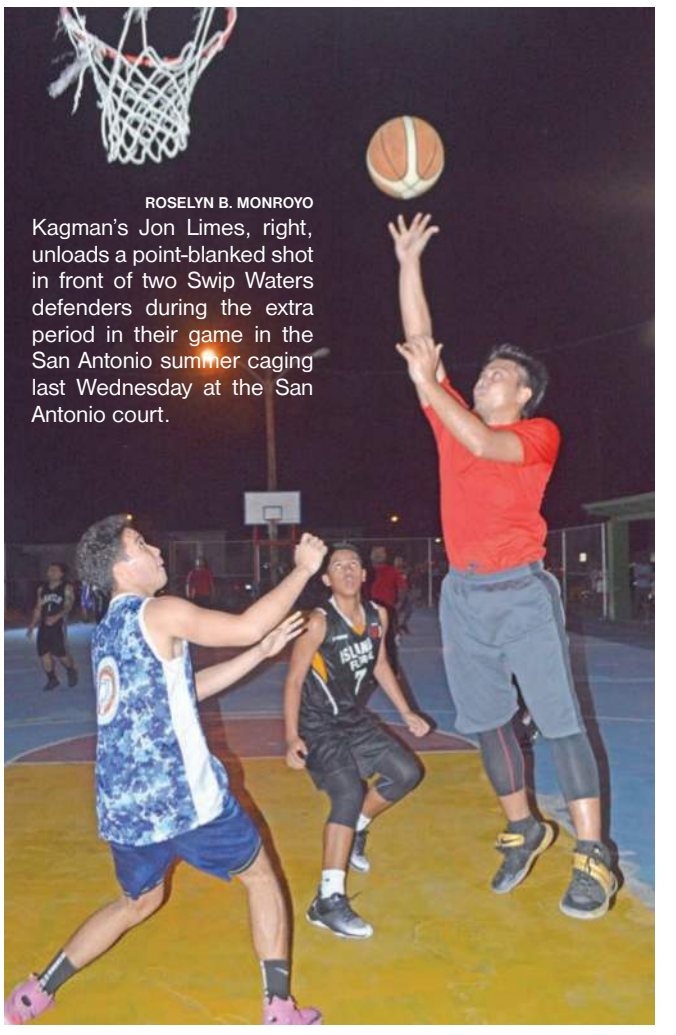

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Kagman's Jon Limes, right, unloads a point-blanked shot in front of two Swip Waters defenders during the extra period in their game in the San Antonio summer caging last Wednesday at the San Antonio court.

Kagman held Swip Water to one point in the closing minutes of the overtime to take a 101-89 victory in the first game in 2017 San Antonio Summer Basketball League last Wednesday at the San Antonio court.

Down by three, 85-88, with a little over three minutes left in the extra period, Kagman had a 16-1 windup to steal the win from Swip Water and avoid back-to-back losses.

Tom Pangelinan started Kagman's late surge with an and-1 play. He missed the bonus charity, allowing Swip Water to keep the shaky lead. However, not for long, as two straight baskets from Brandon Babauta and another field goal from Pangelinan gave Kagman a 93-88 advantage, going into the final two minutes of the match.

Kagman was not done yet, as it added 6 more points off Dizon Magofna's drive and Jon Limes' two consecutive baskets that upped the team's lead to double-digit lead, 99-88. Swip Water then ended its silence off a split free throw from Ezra Caro, while Limes made in three in a row as he banked in the last shot of the match.

Five Kagman players scored in twin digits in the win with Ray Babauta leading the way as he fired 23 points, including the squad's 4 markers that helped them send the game in overtime, 82-all.

The victory over Swip Water allowed Kagman to bounce back from its 72-89 loss to Marianas Variety last Saturday.

Marianas Variety led from start to finish, leaving no room for Kagman to recover. Ivan Devero, Kelvin Fitial, and Irvin Malonzo teamed up in handing Marianas Variety the win as they combined for more than half of the squad's production. Fitial had a team-high 17 points, while Devero

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LeBron, Love help Cavs rout Celtics in Game 1

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Kershaw earns 20th career win against rival Giants

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The CNMI's Carol Lee is still in contention in her third tournament in Morocco after making it to the semifinals of the doubles event of the RUC Tennis Junior Open last Wednesday.

Carol nears finale in Morocco tourney

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World-ranked player Carol Lee is a step away from advancing to the finals of the doubles event in Morocco's RUC Tennis Junior Open.

Lee, who is ranked No. 330 in the world, and teammate Skyler Marie Grace Grishuk of the U.S. made it to the semifinals of the Grade 4 competition under the ITF Juniors Circuit after downing Great Britain's Amarni Banks and Algeria's Lynda Benkaddour in two sets last Wednesday at the Tennis Clos de l'aviation Route d'El Jadida in Casablanca.

The No. 1 seeded pair of Lee and Grishuk eked out a 7-5 win over their unranked opponents in the opening set before completing the sweep with a much easier 6-3 triumph in the second.

The victory was sweet revenge for Lee, who fell to Banks in the opening round of the singles division. The win was also the CNMI player's second against Benkaddour, as the former topped the Algerian in their battle for the quarterfinals berth in last week's ITF/CAT North African Circuit 2017.

After eliminating Banks and Benkaddour, Lee and Grishuk will face No. 3 and Switzerland's Joanne Zuger and Morocco's Oumaima Aziz for the finals ticket at the top half of the draw. Zuger—the sister of Sina who defeated Lee in the Round of 8 of last week's Grade 3 tournament—and Aziz marched into the Final Four after a similar straight set victory against Switzerland's Lea Magun and Australia's Tina Nadine Smith, 6-4, 6-2.

The semifinal round of the RUC Tennis Junior Open will all feature the seeded players in the 16-team field, as the Final Four pairing at the bottom half of the draw will have No. 4 Astigarraga Harper of Spain and Daniella Dimitrova of Bulgaria challenging No. 2 Celestrine Avomo

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Bears make playoffs; Falcons stay alive

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The Chalan Kanoa Bears secured the third playoff slot, while the Falcons are still in race for the fourth and last semis ticket in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League after they won the final two games in the regular season.

The defending champion Bears moved to the playoff round following a 16-3 victory over the eliminated Blue Jays last Tuesday night at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield. The Bears finished the double-round robin elimination with an 8-6 record for third place in the final team standings behind early semifinalists Go See Mark and the BSI Aces.

The Bears held the Blue Jays to two runs in the first six innings of their make-up game to take the easy win and avoided going through a tiebreaker with Titanium (7-7) and Falcons (7-7) for the battle for the final two semis seats.

The Blue Jays scored the two runs at the bottom of the second inning off a sacrifice fly and Davey Matagolia's

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Chalan Kanoa Bears' Angel Palacios practices his swing while waiting for the start of their game against the Blue Jays in the 2017 Saipan Baseball League last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Sweep for WSR in All Schools track meet

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

William S. Reyes' Lyanah Omelau, left, leads runners competing in the girls U7's 400m race during the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships last Friday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

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William S. Reyes Elementary School reigned supreme in the elementary division of the 2017 PSS/McDonald's All Schools Track and Field Championships after sweeping the two age groups competitions last week at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

In the boys U7 division, the Kingfishers collected 92 points to place way ahead of Tinian Elementary School and Brilliant Star School, which gained 56 and 30 points, respectively.

Points were awarded to schools based on how their students finished in the 60m, 100m, 200, 400m and 4x100m and 4x400m relay runs and

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